

OIC meeting in Dakar

AMMAN (AP) — Ministers of information and culture from 16 Islamic states will meet June 14-16 in Dakar to consider means of boosting inter-Islamic cooperation in their fields, the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) announced Tuesday. The 46-member OIC, based in Jeddah, is the umbrella for the world's estimated one billion Muslims. The ministers are members of a standing OIC ministerial committee formed by the 1974 Islamic summit in Mecca. They will meet in Dakar under the chairmanship of Senegalese President Abdou Diouf. Among other things, the ministers will consider the establishment of a special fund to boost inter-Islamic cooperation in the fields of culture and information. The three-day meeting will be attended by Saudi Arabia, Bangladesh, Cuba, Iraq, Kuwait, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, Yemen, Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Mauritius, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, Sierra Leone and Indonesia. OIC Secretary-General Hassan Ali Gahed left for Dakar to attend the meeting.

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Calta to head Prague cabinet

PRAGUE (AP) — Czechoslovakia's Civic Forum, runaway winners of the country's first free elections for four decades, agreed Tuesday to ask incumbent Prime Minister Marian Calfa, a former Communist, to form a new government. The forum agreed to the appointment after talks with its Slovak counterpart Public Against Violence and President Václav Havel, co-founder of the movement that led November's peaceful revolution. "All those participating in the talks agreed that Marian Calfa will be entrusted with forming the new government," a statement from the president's office said. A presidential spokesman said Calfa would start talks with all the major parties, "not necessarily coalition talks," to establish their views, but gave no timetable. The new government is expected to be picked and approved by the end of the month. Despite its sweeping victory, Civic Forum has said it wants to form a broad-based coalition government to enable it to take unpopular measures to revive the country's ravaged economy.

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Death toll in Soviet unrest now 139

MOSCOW (AP) — Deaths caused by ethnic unrest between Kirghiz and Uzbeks in Soviet Central Asia have climbed to 139 — 32 more than was reported Saturday night, TASS reported Tuesday. The report by the official Soviet news agency mentioned only one new clash Monday night and did not explain how the 32 people were killed. Earlier TASS reports said the unrest was subsiding. In Monday's clash, several of the youths were detained after they pelted police in Kirghizia's capital of Frunze with rocks and bottles, TASS said. The latest casualty statistics of 139 people killed and 496 wounded were issued by the Kirghiz interior ministry, TASS said. On Saturday night state-controlled newspapers and television reported a total of 107 deaths.

No invitation for British team — Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's parliament Tuesday denied an Iranian press report that it had invited a British delegation to visit Tehran. "No U.K. church representative or British MP has been invited, nor has the Majlis (parliament) any direct or indirect contacts with them," the Iranian news agency IRNA quoted the Majlis public relations office as saying. IRNA said the Majlis was reacting to a report in Tehran's Resalat daily which said the Iranian parliament had invited a delegation from the Church of England.

Iran to merge police forces

TEHRAN (AP) — Parliament voted Tuesday to merge Iran's three main police forces. Tehran Radio said the law instructed the Interior Ministry to merge the police, gendarmes and the Islamic Revolutionary Committee — commonly known as the Komitah — within a year. The unified force, under the command of Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, will be called the "Organisation of Law Enforcement Guards of the Islamic Republic of Iran." The decision would not affect the army and the Revolutionary Guards Corps, the main military force set up after the 1979 revolution.

Mandela fails to get Kohl promise

BONN (AP) — Nelson Mandela failed to win any promises that West Germany would continue sanctions against South Africa when he met Chancellor Helmut Kohl Tuesday, but declared himself generally satisfied with his talks in Bonn. Mandela, deputy president of the African National Congress (ANC), was on the fourth leg of a world tour to argue that anti-apartheid sanctions should not be lifted or eased until the whole structure of racial discrimination is demolished. "On the whole, our mission to Germany has been successful... we are satisfied," Mandela said, while acknowledging that Kohl had made no commitment.

Modal asks Israeli workers not to strike

TEL AVIV (AP) — Yitzhak Modai, Israel's new finance minister, asked trade unions representing one million workers Tuesday to cancel Thursday's 24-hour general strike. The powerful trade union federation Histadrut is demanding a long-term agreement with the government to raise salaries and official action to lower the unemployment rate from nine per cent, near the all-time high. Modai, who took office on Tuesday as part of a rightist government led by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, told the Histadrut he could not negotiate under threat of a strike.

Ceasefire accord in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (AP) — Government troops and Tamil rebels Tuesday agreed to a ceasefire in northeastern Sri Lanka where witnesses say more than 85 people have been killed in the last two days. Justice Minister Shamir Hameed reached the agreement with Tamil Tiger leaders during negotiations in Jaffna, a Tiger stronghold in northern Sri Lanka, according to government officials.

King receives Gorbachev message

Moscow reaffirms keenness for peace

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — A senior Soviet official Tuesday delivered a message to His Majesty King Hussein from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on the outcome of the superpower summit held earlier this month and conveyed to the King his country's keenness to help the Middle East region enjoy just peace and stability. The message was delivered to the King at the Royal Court by Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovsky, who said that "a unified Arab position is of paramount importance to help achieve a just settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict," according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Amnesty International welcomes Jordan's human rights moves

LONDON (Agencies) — Amnesty International has welcomed significant moves by the Jordanian government to protect human rights, but said further fundamental safeguards were necessary to prevent abuses. In a report released Wednesday, the worldwide human rights organisation noted that many political prisoners had been released in recent months and that martial law, in force since 1967, has been "frozen" with a view to abolition. The government is also reviewing restrictive ordinary laws and has put before Parliament a new draft defence law that would give detained security suspects the right of appeal to the high court every 30 days. The current defence law does not allow any judicial review of detention orders.

Levy suggests withdrawal; Eitan calls for expulsions

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy launched his term in Israel's new right-wing cabinet Tuesday by suggesting the army could withdraw from the occupied territories as part of a peace settlement. At the same time, however, Defense Minister Moshe Arens began consulting high-ranking army officers on how to end the 30-month uprising in the occupied territories. One cabinet minister urged expelling uprising leaders "instead of shooting at children."

The new 19-minister coalition led by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir of the Likud bloc was installed by parliament Monday night after three months of painstaking negotiations. It is made up of 10 far-right and religious factions. The government is the 24th in Israel's history and one of the most right-wing. It is the fourth to be headed by the Shamir, and replaces Likud's coalition with the left-of-centre Labour Party which fell in a parliamentary vote of no confidence March 15. Before taking his oath, Shamir vowed Monday that top priority would be given the settling of an influx of Soviet immigrants which is expected to reach about 150,000 this year. Shamir, 74, also promised to

particular attention on the Middle East question, which was taken up at the superpower summit. King Hussein reaffirmed Jordan's keenness for achieving a just and durable peace in the Middle East, emphasising the need for continued efforts to achieve that goal through an international conference. "The King denounced the new hardline government in Israel as a danger to Middle East peace. The new government forms a real threat to the stability of the region because of its rightist programme, since it refuses to talk to the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation) or withdraw from the occupied territories," Petra quoted the King as saying. The influx of Soviet Jews to Israel violated the human rights of Palestinians, the King said. "The most dangerous aspect of this migration is that it is carried out under the slogan 'human rights.' But (due to) the way it is done and in light of the declared Israeli position, it is a flagrant violation of Palestinian human rights," the King added. The King said Jordan welcomed changes in the Soviet Union

and Eastern Europe but did not want them to have a negative impact on the Middle East. "The international developments, which Jordan has welcomed as a natural outcome of long efforts to provide protection to the world community, should not adversely affect our region and its peoples," King Hussein said. The King called for developed relations between Jordan and the Soviet Union founded on the firm basis of mutual interests. The audience was attended by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the King's Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh and the Soviet charge d'affaires in Amman. Petrovsky arrived here early Tuesday from Baghdad where he delivered to President Saddam Hussein a message from President Gorbachev on the superpower summit. Petrovsky has also delivered a message from Gorbachev to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat. Diplomats in Baghdad said it dealt with Arab and Palestinian alarm at Soviet Jewish emigration.

common during the state of emergency, Amnesty International said. The report details the legal system that resulted in those human rights violations, specifically the emergency provisions that have given the authorities sweeping powers with virtually no possibility of judicial scrutiny. For over half a century, successive governments used those powers to detain suspected political opponents, including prisoners of conscience, without charge or trial, or to bring them to trial before a martial law court lacking basic safeguards for fairness, the report said. Many detainees were tortured, and the death penalty continues to be used, the report added. An Amnesty International delegation discussed these concerns and proposals for reform with the Jordanian government during a visit to the Kingdom in March. The report, based on those talks, contains recommendations to ensure those abuses do not recur, including allowing all detainees to

have prompt access to lawyers, investigating torture allegations and introducing the right of appeal to a higher court in all cases. The organisation said the safeguards guaranteeing the rights of administrative detainees do not go far enough and should include a time limit on the impossibility of administrative detention, the right to judicial review within hours or days of arrest and the right to appeal to a higher court. The government was called on to review whether maintaining a system of administrative detention was appropriate and necessary. Amnesty International also called for a judicial review of the cases of more than 30 prisoners convicted by the martial law court trials, and for an end to executions. "By adopting such safeguards, Jordan would contribute to the protection of human rights in the Middle East," Amnesty International said. (See editorial on page 4).

launch a peace dialogue with the Arabs. "I think we will reach a dialogue with several Arab elements," he said. The Moroccan-born Levy Tuesday told reporters the government opposes Palestinian demands for statehood in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. But Levy added: "We are not colonialists. We are interested in reaching a process that will be based on safeguarding the existing states." Levy suggested that Palestinians who lived in the West Bank should have "the opportunity to conduct their lives according to their customs, without soldiers naturally." The condition, Levy added, would be for Jews to be allowed to live in the same territory. Levy has played a key role in settling some 70,000 Israelis in the occupied territories over the last two decades. Israel radio reported Arens, Shamir's chief in Likud and foreign minister in the past government, started meetings with leading generals to consider new measures to end the uprising against occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan, a former chief of staff who led Israel's forces in a 1982



His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday confers with Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovsky in a meeting attended by Prime Minister Mudar Badran (Petra photo).

Qasem: Shamir coalition will only aggravate instability

AMMAN (J.T.) — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem Tuesday described the new Israeli government of Yitzhak Shamir as an unprecedented government which does not want to maintain the current situation as it is but will aggravate it by embarking on a series of attempts and operations designed to create a new situation and undermine all peace efforts in the region. In a statement to Jordan Television, Qasem pointed out that His Majesty King Hussein had warned several months ago of such a development. "The King's warning was not only addressed to the Arabs but also to the United States, which is heavily involved in this issue," Qasem said. He added that the statement made by Shamir upon introducing his new government was capable of destroying all the attempts and endeavours to achieve peace in the region. Shamir's statement that "the land of Israel is part of Israel, and as such is not negotiable," Qasem said. "It does away with the equilibrium to achieve a just solution," he said. The new Israeli government rings the bells of danger in the region, heralding a new era in which the whole region will be unstable and insecure, Qasem said. However, he voiced hope that the United States would contribute to peace efforts by safeguarding the basic rights, including the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, a natural right which the United States has recognised. "The American position will be the decisive factor which will determine the extent to which the United States adheres to the requirements of stability and security in the region," Qasem said. He called for a clear official American stand because it is only America which can influence Israeli decisions and can contribute to establishing a just peace in the Middle East.

international consensus," he said in a telephone interview from Washington Monday. He said that the exercise of a U.S. veto in the Security Council to protect Israel "has emboldened the Israeli hardliners and now the situation is ominous and we need U.N. intervention to approve a protective mechanism and call for an international Middle East conference." Arab diplomats were in consultation Monday with non-aligned states in an effort to devise a strategy to bring the issue of protecting Palestinians before the General Assembly. A preliminary Security Council session was expected by the end of the week and one General Assembly source predicted a meeting of the entire world body on June 18. In cases in which the 15-member Security Council cannot reach agreement, usually because of a veto by one of five permanent members, the council may vote to take the issue to the General Assembly. This move has been made only nine times since 1950. General Assembly votes are non-binding and the assembly only issues recommendations. Malsoud said that the assembly would be asked to call upon the council to set up a U.N. observer or police force to protect Palestinians in the occupied territories. This could be accomplished by redeployment of existing U.N. peacekeepers in the region, or by deployment of new observers, he said.

Israeli soldiers tear-gas babies at Gaza clinic

OCCUPIED GAZA (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers threw tear-gas grenades into a crowded waiting room of a U.N. maternity clinic in occupied Gaza City Tuesday, injuring 66 Palestinian children, most of them babies reports said. An official military source said the incident occurred when an army patrol "encountered massive throwing of stones and building blocks from inside the U.N. clinic." Witnesses said six or seven soldiers in plainclothes chased stone-throwing Palestinians into the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) Swedish health centre and burst into a waiting room for pregnant women and a room where infants were being vaccinated. They said the soldiers threw three tear-gas grenades in the courtyard of the clinic. An UNRWA spokeswoman said between 100 and 200 women and children were in the centre at the time. "Babies were foaming at the mouth after being tear-gassed. There was screaming and shouting. It was pandemonium, people were enraged, there was even more stone-throwing afterwards," a Palestinian witness quoted by Reuters said. UNRWA international staff eventually intervened and persuaded the soldiers to withdraw. Fifty-eight infants aged between one month and three years were treated for tear-gas inhalation at the nearby Naz children's hospital. Fourteen of them were in medium to serious condition on respirators, hospital officials said. The UNRWA spokeswoman said the agency's acting director for Gaza, Richard Larson, was taking up the attack with the Israeli authorities. "Our concern is that tear-gas is being lobbed into the courtyard of a United Nations health centre in the presence of very small babies and nursing women," she said. Palestinians say Israeli soldiers have frequently fired tear-gas into enclosed areas such as crowded homes in refugee camps during the 30-month-old Palestinian uprising.

Cairo accuses Israel of threats, preparing for war

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt Tuesday accused Israel of resorting to a "logic of threats" and said the Jewish state apparently has begun "to prepare for aggression and war." If Israel indeed has changed its strategic goals from its professed peaceful intentions, a government statement said, Cairo "cannot ignore" the change but must face it "with all gravity and intent." The statement was attributed to a spokesman in the office of President Hosni Mubarak. It was carried by the state-run Middle East News Agency. The spokesman said the statement was in response to claims by an assistant chief of the Israeli military staff who said war is inevitable against certain Arab countries. In April, Ehud Barak, Israel's only deputy chief of staff, warned that combined forces of Syria,

Jordan and Iraq could threaten Israel in several years. "We must prepare ourselves for it as if it will come to pass," Barak said. "However, we should not see in these preparations (by the Arabs) a certainty that this will happen." An Israeli major general, Moshe Bar-Kochba, was quoted in a Kuwaiti newspaper this month as predicting a war. He said Egypt would participate with other Arab countries, but that Israel would win and would capture the Sinai peninsula and even parts of mainland Egypt in the process. The newspaper, Al Rai Al Aam, said the interview had been aired the day before over Israel army radio. The radio said Tuesday it had broadcast no such interview. It was unclear whether either Barak's comments or the Bar-Kochba interview were the ones

to which Tuesday's statement referred. "The Arab Republic of Egypt has received with amazement and condemnation statements issued by an Israeli assistant chief-of-staff in which he spoke about the inevitability of another war between Israel and certain Arab countries," the statement said. "He identified these countries and made unacceptable threats which would reverse the situation and bring the region back to the pre-peace era." It did not elaborate. The statement was Cairo's strongest referring to the possibility of Middle East war since it became the only Arab state at peace with Israel by signing a treaty in 1979. The use throughout the statement of Egypt's full official name, the Arab Republic of Egypt, also was unusual if not unprecedented.

Arabs pursue General Assembly action

Under the "uniting for peace" resolution of 1950, the issue of protecting Palestinians could be raised in the General Assembly either by a vote of nine in the Security Council, or by a majority vote in the General Assembly. Arab diplomats said they had not yet decided which course to pursue. The United States is one of five permanent members in the Security Council, each of which can block any measure by casting a veto. The others are Britain, China, France and the Soviet Union. The U.S. government on May 31 vetoed the latest effort in the Security Council to send a council mission to investigate abuses of Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Seminar opens on 'Crime and Society'

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday attended the opening session of a two-day symposium on "Crime and Society." The symposium is organised by the Higher National Committee for Combating Crimes in cooperation with the Public Security Department (PSD). Addressing the opening session, PSD Director Major-General Fadel Al Fheid said that despite the limited scale of crimes in Jordan, "it has become necessary for us to ring the bells of danger and to mobilise our capacities to maintain security." Chairman of the Higher Committee Mohammad Khair Mamsar said that statistics from the Arab World and Jordan in particular, show that the scale of crimes is so far limited.

Algerians vote in first free elections, ending one-party rule

ALGIERS (R) — Algerians flocked to the polls Tuesday in the country's first free elections that end 20 years of one-party rule by the National Liberation Front (FLN) and test the rising power of Muslim fundamentalists.

Three hours after polls opened at 8 a.m. (0700 GMT) voting stations in the capital reported relatively high turnout of between 10 and 30 per cent. A national holiday was declared.

"People are turning out in bigger numbers than usual," said Aicha Barki, director of the Al Moudjahid Primary School and an observer for the FLN. "But not everyone knows the new procedures. People are used to voting for a single list."

Ten opposition parties, ranging from the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) to the Communist Vanguard Socialist Party, and hundreds of independents are contesting seats in about 1,600 municipal and provincial councils.

The elections are the first multi-party poll in Algeria since the dying days of French colonial rule in 1960 and a major test for President Chadli Benjedid, who launched a multi-party democracy after October 1988 youth riots.

The polls close at 7 p.m. (1800 GMT), and initial results are expected late Tuesday night.

FIS spokesman Abbasi Madani, who voted early in his neighbourhood of Hydra, predicted Monday his party would grab 75 per cent of the vote and anything less might constitute fraud. He warned of violence if fraud takes place.

But in the absence of nationwide opinion polls, government and diplomatic analysts give the FIS a maximum of 30 per cent — still a big score for a party legalised only last August.

The fundamentalists, with strong support among urban youth hardest hit by the economic crisis, want to use local councils as springboards for building an Islamic state.

Despite economic hardship and charges of corruption the FLN is believed to be firmly entrenched in rural regions and among older citizens who fought French rule under its banner.

"I voted for the FLN because it led the war of liberation," said Mohammed, a taxi driver in the middle-class Kouba district.

To ensure the elections are fair the government has allowed observers from all competing parties and independents to watch voting and counting. Judges are to hear all complaints.

Interior Minister Mohammad Salah Mohammadi told Algerian Television Monday night there had been no irregularities in early voting in Saharan Desert regions where mobile stations fanned out to bedouin settlements Saturday.

Two opposition parties linked to historic FLN figures, the Socialist Forces Front of revolutionary war hero Hocine Ait Ahmed and the Movement for Democracy in Algeria of former President Ahmad Ben Bella, have urged a boycott.

They say the FLN has an unfair edge because of its giant budget and control of most media, and legislative elections should come first.

"The powerful democratic wind that is blowing over the world condemns us to change, and rather than merely submitting to it, Algeria must organise so as not to remain outside its time," the evening daily Horizons said Monday.

The FLN daily Al Moudjahid apparently appealed to fear of the FIS Tuesday by saying, "the FLN is the only effective barrier to anti-democratic forces."

Ben Bella dismisses polls

Ben Bella, who was president from 1963 until his overthrow in a coup in 1965, dismissed the elections as a trick by the FLN leadership to stay in power.

"This vote is a ploy by the leadership to perpetuate itself in power. The ruling powers will cheat, they will stuff the ballot boxes," he told French radio.

Smaller parties in the running include the Rally for Culture and Democracy led by ethnic Berbers and a host of centre-left groups including the Social Democratic Party and National Party for Solidarity and Development.

"The majority of Algerians will not express their will or cannot express it properly because they have no clear options," Ben Bella added.

Ben Bella said the main difference between his movement and the Islamic Salvation Front was over the role of women in politics.

"I do not agree with their position on the question of women. They (the women) are free to express their point of view," he said.

Chadli told reporters after voting near the presidential palace he hoped Algerians would elect qualified candidates whatever their political orientation.

Kurdish rebels deny killing villagers

NICOSIA (AP) — Kurdish guerrillas Tuesday denied accusations that they had killed 26 villagers in eastern Turkey, and blamed the killings on the Turkish army.

A statement by the Kurdish Liberation Army, released through the Cyprus Kurdish Solidarity Committee, said the villagers, including 12 children, were killed when the Turkish army bombed the village of Cevrimli Sunday.

The army, the statement said, besieged the village and began pouring mortar and rocket fire into it after a clash between Kurdish guerrillas and pro-government Turkish guards.

The clash killed four guards and one guerrilla, it added.

The statement said the army barrage continued well after the guerrillas had fled from the village.

"This is not the first time the army acts in this way, trying to blame the Kurdish guerrillas for its own massacre of civilians," the statement said.

It cited a similar incident in the village of Kizilay last Nov. 24, in which 28 Kurdish villagers were killed in army bombardment.

The Kurdish Liberation Army is the military wing of the outlawed Kurdish Labour Party, a Marxist group which has been fighting the Turkish government for years seeking independence for the predominantly Kurdish provinces of eastern Turkey.

The Kurdish population in Turkey is estimated at 10 million.

The guerrillas poured gasoline on four houses and ignited them, said the regional government's office in Diyarbakir, the main city in the region. It said the death toll included 12 children, seven women and three elderly men.

Four village guards were killed in a shootout with the guerrillas which lasted several hours, the announcement said. The guards killed one of the attackers, but the other guerrillas fled before security forces reached the village, it added.

Local correspondents reached by phone told the Associated Press that journalists were not being allowed in the Cevrimli.

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Maronite patriarch recognises Hrawi

BEIRUT (AP) — Lebanon's most influential Christian cleric Tuesday declared his recognition of Syrian-backed President Elias Hrawi amid reports of military buildups by rival forces vying for control of the Christian enclave.

The Maronite Catholic Patriarch, Nasrallah Sfeir, crossed the city's dividing green line to the mainly Muslim western sector to meet with Hrawi, also a Maronite, at his temporary residence. It was the first such meeting since Hrawi's election on Nov. 24.

Meanwhile, the prestigious newspaper An Nahar said rebel Gen. Michel Aoun and his rival, militia chieftain Samir Geagea, have received separate shipments of heavy weapons, including 240 mm multi-barrelled rocket launchers, from an undisclosed source.

A ceasefire was declared on May 17 in the 800-square-kilometre Christian enclave, where Aoun's troops and Geagea's Lebanese Forces militiamen had been fighting ferociously since Jan. 30.

But several violations of the truce have been reported since, including a machine gun and artillery fire exchange Tuesday in which two people were wounded.

The inconclusive showdown so far has killed 1,036 people and wounded 2,774, by police count.

An Nahar quoted unnamed political and military sources as expressing "pessimism" over the situation in the Christian enclave in the light of the buildups.

Hrawi was elected president under an Arab League-brokered peace accord to end 15 years of civil war.

The pact mainly provides for equal distribution of power among Muslims and Christians, who had dominated the government, army and legislature since independence from France in 1943.

After his 90-minute meeting with Hrawi, Sfeir would not comment on the peace pact worked out by Lebanese legislators at a meeting in Saudi Arabia last year.

But he said: "I discussed with his excellency the president that security could be achieved through the full cooperation of all the Lebanese."

His reference to Hrawi as president marked the first time he has recognised him as Lebanon's head of state. The Christians are split between Geagea, who has accepted the peace pact and Hrawi's election, and Aoun who has rejected both.

Sfeir later visited parliament Speaker Hussein Husseini, a Shiite Muslim, and was scheduled to also call Prime Minister Salim Hoss, a Sunni Muslim.

He refused to answer a reporter's question on whether Hrawi's government should extend its authority to the Christian enclave.

Aoun has refused to leave the presidential palace, a traditional seat of the head of state in suburban Baabda, forcing Hrawi to set up headquarters in Syrian-policed west Beirut.

Karrubi re-elected Iranian speaker

NICOSIA (R) — The Iranian parliament Tuesday re-elected its anti-Western speaker, Mehdi Karrubi, for another year with a strong mandate.

Karrubi, 53, beat moderate Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri by 155 votes to 73, the official Iranian News Agency (IRNA) reported.

Political analysts said Karrubi's reelection was expected but the large margin showed the growing stature of the white-turbaned cleric who advocates attacks on Israeli interests around the world.

"One cannot deal with the United States and the Zionists except with the logic of force," he said last month, urging Muslims to form resistance cells in various countries to strike at Israeli interests.

Karrubi beat Nateq Nouri 147-92 last August after Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani vacated the speaker's chair he had held for nine years to become president.

In the past 10 months, Karrubi has tried to put himself above the worst factional wranglings in parliament but never stopped lobbying for radical causes.

He led parliament in approving Rafsanjani's cabinet of technocrats and a five-year economic plan which includes \$27.6 billion of foreign borrowing.

But in February, he spoke out against senior clerics he accused of trying to diminish the radical teachings of the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, starting a row which subsided only after Khomeini's successor, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, intervened.

Two months later, responding to popular dissatisfaction with economic hardships, he said the state should set an example by hanging a few hoarders and profiteers in Tehran squares.

Karrubi heads the Martyrs' Foundation which looks after the welfare of families of people killed in the 1979 Islamic Revolution and the 1980-88 war with Iraq.

He led anti-Western demonstrations in Mecca during the Muslim pilgrimage in July 1987 when more than 400 people, most of them Iranians, were killed in clashes with Saudi security forces.

Meanwhile, a draft bill proposing the merger of Iran's various security forces was discussed in the parliament Tuesday, Tehran Radio reported.

The broadcast, monitored in Nicosia, said that if the bill was passed, the Komiteh, or revolutionary law enforcement agencies, will be merged with the Gendarmerie and the police.

The new security unit will be under the jurisdiction of the Interior Ministry, it said.

It added that the head of the unit will be appointed by Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, in his capacity as commander-in-chief of the armed forces.

If the merger of the security forces goes ahead, it will end a long-time government effort to curb the power of the Revolutionary Komiteh, or committees.

The neighbourhood watchdog committees are created by the general public. Reputed for excessive religious zeal, the committees have often been reckless, and taken law and order into their own hands.

Israeli press gives new government frosty reception

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli newspapers greeted the new rightist government of Yitzhak Shamir with gloom Tuesday and Shamir himself could only express the hope it would overcome the challenges ahead.

Shamir's coalition of mainstream conservatives, far-right nationalists and orthodox rabbis won parliamentary approval on Monday, ending an 88-day political crisis sparked by his refusal to back U.S. proposals for Arab-Israeli peace talks.

Presenting the 19-man cabinet to President Chaim Herzog, Shamir said his main priority would be the flood of Soviet Jewish immigrants arriving in Israel daily.

"This government and all its members know deeply of the most serious challenges that face us...I hope this government will fulfill its job as the law requires and as the people of Israel expect," Shamir said.

In an editorial headlined "the rejectionist win", the independent Haaretz said the new cabinet backed harsh steps against an Arab revolt in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and had unrealistic conditions for Middle East peace talks.

"This policy has no chance of achieving its target, but will only intensify Israel's isolation," the respected daily said.

The Labour Party's Davar said the make-up of the government augured a sharp decline in foreign relations and in relations with Palestinians.

"Relative to the little expected of it other than to drag Israel toward international isolation and a bitter war with its neighbours, this government can only surprise for the good," it said.

The conservative Jerusalem Post was the only one of seven leading dailies to give the cabinet a guarded welcome.

"Mr. Shamir's cabinet...is not the best the country has to offer but it is the best that could be achieved...it is not beyond the realm of possibility that this government will function well and effectively," the English-language paper said.

The previous six-year coalition between Likud and the dovish Labour Party of Shimon Peres fell apart when Shamir refused Labour demands to accept U.S.-brokered talks with a Palestinian delegation in Cairo.

The new cabinet, seen as the most hardline in Israeli history, includes former Defence Minister Ariel Sharon as housing minister. He led the costly 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

Joined by Foreign Minister David Levy and Finance Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, Sharon has challenged Shamir's timid steps towards Palestinian elections and imposed hardline terms.

Shamir's narrow coalition depends for survival on two parties which want to annex the occupied territories for unlimited Jewish settlement, and a third, Moledet, which wants the expulsion of Arabs.

But the 74-year-old former guerrilla leader and spymaster told reporters Tuesday that he and his colleagues were committed to peace with their Arab neighbours.

"We will make very important efforts...for getting peace with the Arab World and the success of these efforts will depend mainly on the goodwill and the understanding of our neighbours," he said.

Israeli press gives new government frosty reception

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli newspapers greeted the new rightist government of Yitzhak Shamir with gloom Tuesday and Shamir himself could only express the hope it would overcome the challenges ahead.

Shamir's coalition of mainstream conservatives, far-right nationalists and orthodox rabbis won parliamentary approval on Monday, ending an 88-day political crisis sparked by his refusal to back U.S. proposals for Arab-Israeli peace talks.

Presenting the 19-man cabinet to President Chaim Herzog, Shamir said his main priority would be the flood of Soviet Jewish immigrants arriving in Israel daily.

"This government and all its members know deeply of the most serious challenges that face us...I hope this government will fulfill its job as the law requires and as the people of Israel expect," Shamir said.

In an editorial headlined "the rejectionist win", the independent Haaretz said the new cabinet backed harsh steps against an Arab revolt in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and had unrealistic conditions for Middle East peace talks.

"This policy has no chance of achieving its target, but will only intensify Israel's isolation," the respected daily said.

The Labour Party's Davar said the make-up of the government augured a sharp decline in foreign relations and in relations with Palestinians.

"Relative to the little expected of it other than to drag Israel toward international isolation and a bitter war with its neighbours, this government can only surprise for the good," it said.

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Kuwaiti government resigns

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's head of state Tuesday accepted the government's resignation two days after elections for a new National Assembly, the official Kuwaiti News Agency (KUNA) reported.

Prime Minister Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah submitted his cabinet's resignation to the emir of Kuwait who asked them to stay in office until a new government was formed.

Political sources said a new government, also led by Sheikh Saad, was expected to be formed before the 75-seat National Assembly holds its inaugural meeting due by July 10.

The Kuwaiti Liberation Army is the military wing of the outlawed Kurdish Labour Party, a Marxist group which has been fighting the Turkish government for years seeking independence for the predominantly Kurdish provinces of eastern Turkey.

The Kurdish population in Turkey is estimated at 10 million.

The guerrillas poured gasoline on four houses and ignited them, said the regional government's office in Diyarbakir, the main city in the region. It said the death toll included 12 children, seven women and three elderly men.

Four village guards were killed in a shootout with the guerrillas which lasted several hours, the announcement said. The guards killed one of the attackers, but the other guerrillas fled before security forces reached the village, it added.

Local correspondents reached by phone told the Associated Press that journalists were not being allowed in the Cevrimli.

Shamir's government faces credibility problems

By Nicolas B. Tatro
The Associated Press

TEL AVIV — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has pledged to make peace a top priority of his new right-wing government, but he recognises a major task in convincing Arabs he is not a "monster seeking war."

In an apparent effort to allay Washington's fears, Shamir and leading political allies have softened rhetoric about settlement-building that U.S. policy considers to be an obstacle to peace.

Likud officials suggest the new government will move quickly to improve relations with the United States, acknowledging that Israel's new government has an image problem.

Yossi Olmert, director of the government press office, said, "we are concerned. We are aware of it, and we shall strive to explain what the government is all about."

"There is more flexibility in this government than meets the eye," he added.

David Levy, the new foreign minister, was housing minister in the last government and approved granting \$1.8 million in state funds to start a new settlement in the Christian Quarter of Jerusalem's Old City.

But he told reporters his first task as foreign minister would be "to prevent deterioration and to improve" Israel's strained ties with the United States.

Harry Wall, Israel Director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, said the government would act to reassure concerned U.S. Jews that it was not extremist.

"It will have to try harder to disabuse the critics who think that this regime will not push the peace process...the important thing will be to watch what it does and not what it says."

Palestinians, however, plainly do not believe a right-wing government will make any sincere move towards starting negotiations.

They see Shamir as a politician who opposed the peace treaty with Egypt, Levy as the man whose reign as housing minister resulted in creation of most of the 130 existing settlements in the occupied Arab territories and Ariel Sharon, the new immigration head, as the man who launched a war against Palestinians in Lebanon.

In a leaflet, the Underground Leadership of the 30-month Palestinian uprising noted that Shamir's government relied for support on the two-seat Moledet, or homeland, party which advocates the expulsion of all Arabs.

It called for an escalation of anti-Israeli protests to "burn the ground under the feet of the occupation's army and settlers."

Faisal Hussein, a leading Palestinian activist in occupied Jerusalem, said: "I think it is a government of war, and I think the decisions of such a government will be a decision of war."

Elias Freij, the mayor of the West Bank town of Bethlehem, predicted a new wave of settlement building, saying "Israeli bulldozers are much more dangerous than armoured tanks."

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Israeli government a disappointment — Sayeh

By Lima Nabil
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Speakers of the Palestinian National Council (PNC) Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh Tuesday said that the new Israeli government, headed by Yitzhak Shamir, is clear-cut evidence that Israel does not want peace and that it is blocking all paths to peace.

In a statement to Al Ra'i Arabic daily and the Jordan Times, Sayeh said the Palestinian people, while striving to achieve peace, will not surrender to Israeli or United States demands "if their demands contravene our principled stands." He said the Palestinian people will not accept any alternative to establishing

their own state on their national soil under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, with Jerusalem as the capital.

Sayeh expressed disappointment with the new Israeli government, saying that it does not want peace. "We were hopeful that the United States will hit Israel at its hand, prevent it and force it to accept the peaceful initiatives, particularly the Palestinian initiative," Sayeh said.

He added that the Palestinian uprising, would continue despite all Israeli attempts to oppress it. In a reference to the PLO stand vis-a-vis armed struggle, Sayeh said "although the PLO has accepted the peace principle, not one decision has been issued ban-

ning armed struggle, and it is our right to use all forms of struggle in order to restore our rights, irrespective of how long this process will take us."

Sheikh Sayeh pointed out that the PLO does not want to disrupt its dialogue with the United States, although it has so far failed to realise the desired results. He said the U.S. has been opposed until now to upgrading the level of representation at the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue. He voiced hope that the U.S. will pursue the dialogue with the PLO if it really wanted to achieve genuine peace, "for dialogue with the PLO is the only means conducive to peace."

Sayeh said that the PLO was expecting the U.S. to live up to its



Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh responsibilities as a superpower, and to work for peace, rather than supporting wars, oppression and intimidation against the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories.

Sheep smuggling operation foiled

AMMAN (J.T.) — One of seven lorries laden with live sheep was impounded by the customs authorities in an abortive attempt to smuggle the animals into Jordan across the Iraqi border, according to a report in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Tuesday.

Police and customs official patrolling the border area spotted the seven lorries trying to cross into Jordanian territory from neighbouring Iraq, and as soon as the vehicles were spotted, their occupants opened fire on the customs officials and police patrols who returned the fire, the report said.

Only one of the lorries, with Saudi licence plates, was captured while the rest of the vehicles fled across the border, according to a customs official. When questioned about the affair, the captured lorry driver said that the other vehicles be-

longed to smugglers from Rweishid and Faidah settlements near the Iraqi border.

The police found an automatic gun and a supply of ammunition in the impounded truck which carried 260 heads of sheep.

Al Ra'i also reported that police in the Hallabat region have arrested the murderer of a farm worker with Arab nationality, who had been stabbed to death inside a greenhouse at a farm where he had been employed.

The report said that the body was taken to Zarqa Hospital for autopsy, it was proved that the victim was stabbed in the abdomen several times with a sharp knife.

According to police sources, quick investigation into the case led to the immediate arrest of the assassin who admitted to have committed that crime. No other details were made available.

South farmers to get interest-free loans

KARAK (J.T.) — Farmers in the Karak region Tuesday began receiving interest-free loans from allocations made by the government to help encourage stock-breeding and tidy the farmers over the present difficulties caused by this year's drought.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran made a tour of the southern regions of Maan, Tafleh and Karak last March and promised farmers interest-free loans through the Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC), in the light of the agricultural situation in the southern regions.

"The government will guarantee these loans and will pay interest on them," Badran told a public meeting in Karak during his tour.

In addition, the government has taken measures to reschedule loans due on local village and municipal councils and has doubled the quantities of animal feed supplied to the three drought-affected governorates.

According to the ACC Director-general Mansour Ben Tarif, the government has assigned JD 500,000 as a first instalment to be paid in loans to the local farmers, with JD 200,000 going to Karak, JD 200,000 to Maan and JD 100,000 to the Tafleh farmers.

Ben Tarif visited the Karak governorate and discussed the question of loans with farmers, with Governor Ismail Dheiman and other officials. "Only those farmers keeping sheep and cattle can obtain the interest-free loans with the purpose of purchasing animal feed for the animals," Ben Tarif said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The ACC normally grants loans for agricultural and irrigation projects. During his tour of the southern regions, Badran announced that major companies in the south have allocated donations of nearly \$3 million to help the inhabitants of the south overcome the present difficult economic conditions.

Government plans free market for red meat, subsidy for breeding

By Joumana Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The government plans to introduce a free market for red meat in Jordan by allowing the private sector import of live cattle and sheep to be bred and butchered locally and will support livestock breeding by subsidising fodder, the Ministry of Supply announced Tuesday.

"The government policy has been and will be to ensure low prices for the consumer," said Radi Ibrahim, undersecretary at the ministry. He explained that the new move would also help counter malpractices involving unauthorised and black market sale of subsidised meat and fodder in addition to creating new employment opportunities in livestock breeding.

Ibrahim told a press conference that the ministry's new plans would result in regular and sufficient supplies of mutton and beef in the Kingdom, which has been facing a shortage over the past several months. The price per kilo of meat of imported sheep and beef is expected to be in the range of JD 2.250 to JD 2.500, depending on the demand and supply situation, according to Ibrahim.

However, he said, the prices will still be about 30 per cent

less than the present price of local fresh meat, which sells for around JD 3.800 per kilogramme.

According to the official, the 1989 consumption of meat in Jordan was 46,000 tonnes, made up of 17 per cent of local fresh meat, 32 per cent frozen meat, and the rest imported mutton and beef. The total volume represented 1,200,000 heads of sheep, he said. At present, the local animal wealth is around 575,000.

The ministry plans for this year include the import of 1,500,000 heads of sheep and cattle with a view to not only meeting the local needs but also export of local meat.

According to the new plan, an amount of JD 15 million will be allocated to subsidise fodder for livestock with a view to encourage local breeding. The subsidy will be available only to those who are registered with the authorities as livestock breeders.

Every importer would be responsible to stock a minimum of 30 days fodder supplies for the imported animals and can obtain further quantities from the ministry warehouses at subsidised prices. Ibrahim said quoting a decision by the Council of Ministers this week.

Ibrahim said many instances of "malpractices" involving

imported meat and subsidised fodder such as sorghum and hay had been brought to the attention of the authorities and the new measures would redress these problems.

According to sources, restaurants, which are not supposed to buy imported subsidised meat, had easy access to subsidised meat through the black market. The Ministry of Supply has issued several warnings against such practices. Another problem was that merchants used to hoard fodder and sell it at a higher price at times of shortage in the market, the sources said. Part of the quantity of fodder was also smuggled out of the country for sale outside, the sources said.

Among measures to be adopted by the government are the reduction of a "consumer tax" from JD 8 to JD 2 per head of sheep, Ibrahim said Tuesday. A JD 10 fee per head of beef will be levied. Only rams could be imported for the purposes of butchering and each should not weigh more than 40 kilogrammes while the net meat weight of each should not be more than 18 kilogrammes. Import of ewes will be allowed only for the purpose of breeding.

According to Ibrahim, the Ministry of Agriculture, in

coordination with the Ministry of Supply, will ensure that the meat of all imported animals is fit for human consumption according to the local standards, in addition to requiring proper certificates and documents from the country of origin.

Ibrahim said the recent shortages of imported meat in the local market was due to "the inability of the private contractor to live up to the contract terms." According to sources, the contractor was unable to supply regular consignments as stipulated under the contract because of the upheavals in Romania, a long-term source of meat for Jordan. At one point, Romanian workers refused to load meat destined for Jordan arguing that there was more pressing local need in Romania than for exporting meat.

According to Ibrahim, the ministry and the contractor are now in court over the contractor's failure to fulfil the contract obligations.

Ibrahim reaffirmed the present government will continue to subsidise basic food commodities such as sugar, rice, wheat, oil and milk. "The government is fully committed to maintaining these subsidies," he told the press conference.

66,302 students sit for tawjihi exams

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Education and Higher Education Mohammad Hamdan Tuesday made an inspection tour of halls where tawjihi students are sitting for their year-end examinations set by the Ministry of Education for students in public and private schools.

"The ministry has taken all necessary arrangements to help the students have their examinations in a convenient atmosphere and to offer services to them," said the minister in a statement following the tour.

A total of 66,302 students, who were registered for the first term examination last January, are sitting for the second session of examination, which will last until June 25, according to ministry officials.

They said that 857 halls had been made available for the students who are sitting for examinations in the literature, science, commerce, agriculture, industry, nursing and hotel management streams.

At least 9,000 teachers have been assigned the task of super-

vising the examinations which began Thursday.

"According to the current regulations, a combination of the results of the two sessions of tawjihi will make up the final result which is expected to appear in late July," the officials said.

In addition to Jordan, a total of 72 Jordanian students in Tunis are taking the tawjihi examinations in scientific and literary streams, according to ministry officials. The examinations are being supervised by Tunisian Ministry of Education officials in cooperation with the Jordanian embassy in Tunis.

In a statement to the Al Ra'i and the Jordan Times, the director of the Ministry of Education's Examinations and Evaluation Department Mohammad Sayel Obeidat said that the process of evaluation will begin Wednesday and that 600 teachers had been assigned the task of evaluation. The results are normally published before the community colleges and universities reopen for the new academic year.



The chairman and chief editor of Al Ra'i, the chief editor of the Jordan Times and staff of the Jordan Press Foundation Company say farewell to long-time colleague Ibrahim Abdul Karim Al Masri (standing) who resigned from his job as printing chief (photo by Youssef AP/Amn).

Al Ra'i honours retiring printer

AMMAN (J.T.) — The chief printer of the Arabic daily Al Ra'i, Mr. Ibrahim Abdul Karim Al Masri, has resigned his post after a 20-year service, and was honoured by the newspaper management at a ceremony held at the Jerusalem Hotel.

Al Masri, who plans to go into private business, said in a speech that he enjoyed every moment of his service with the Al Ra'i team of colleagues who, he said, overwhelmed him with affection and kindness.

Chief-editor of Al Ra'i daily, Mr. Mahmoud Al Kayed, thanked Masri for his efforts and his loyalty and presented him with a token gift from Al Ra'i staff and a certificate of merit in recognition of his services.

AMO holds seminar on crop packaging

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO) is opening a two-day seminar here Wednesday on the manufacture of container and boxes in which agricultural crops are exported to foreign markets. Those invited to attend the seminar are owners of factories that produce the boxes, local farmers who export crops to foreign markets and exporters to the European Community countries. The participants are expected to review a report prepared by a foreign specialist on the question of processing crops for the foreign markets and to discuss problems impeding exports.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) signed an agreement with AMO in 1988 to help promote marketing Jordanian crops in foreign countries.

USAID pledged \$2.5 million to a development programme which is to be completed in five years. The funds assist AMO to improve the efficiency of the domestic and export marketing systems for fruits and vegetables.

WHAT'S ON EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of paintings depicting the Jordanian environment by Adel Al Shuray, Mohammad Assad and Hani Khazim at the Housing Bank Art Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition by Rafiq Al Leham at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "La révolution: 200 ans après" at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ "Amman 90" photo exhibition at Amman Municipality public library.

TURKISH FILM WEEK

- ★ Documentary film entitled "Art of Marbling — Feast of Colours" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

LECTURE

- ★ Lecture in Arabic, entitled "Unemployment — Problem and Solution" by Dr. Salah Al Khawarizmi at the Royal Cultural Centre — 6:00 p.m.



Minister of Culture Khaled Al Karaki, Tuesday presents certificates of appreciation to students who excelled in a reading competition organised by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation's National Association for the Education of the Child (Petra photo)

Education ministry to set up a new department for children

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Culture Khaled Al Karaki Tuesday presented gifts and certificates of appreciation to students who excelled in a reading competition for children, organised by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation's (NHF) National Association for the Education of the Child.

pointed out the ministry's plans to set up a new department for children's culture.

The association President Mohammad Al Suqour said that the child is the major concern of the association and pointed out that the education and proper preparation and development of children is the major preoccupation of the association.

was Abeer Abu Al Saud, from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Regional Office in Amman.

Abu Saud underlined the importance of such competitions in promoting awareness and talked about the global summit for children which will be held in New York on Sept. 29 and 30.

NHF has set up the association in 1986 to supplement the Early Childhood Development Centre, which was set up by the foundation.

Karak demonstrated his ministry's readiness and willingness to cooperate with all institutions concerned with children, and

He reviewed the association's programme and future plans. Also addressing the celebration

Ministry denies report about W. Bank crops

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Agriculture Tuesday denied a report by a foreign news agency operating in Amman that Jordan's decision Monday to allow certain types of crops to be imported into Jordan from the occupied Arab territories was the first of its kind since Jordan severed legal and administrative ties with the West Bank in 1987.

The report had said that the Jordanian government had been allowing crops from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to pass through Jordanian territory on their way to other Arab countries but were not sold in the Kingdom ever since legal and administrative ties were severed.

Crops produced in the occupied lands have been on the

market in Jordan before and after the 1987 disengagement announcement, the ministry said in a statement.

The statement said Jordan has been assisting with the passage of West Bank products to neighbouring Arab countries.

The statement said that when crops enter, the government normally conducts a study of the local markets' needs for crops.

The ministry's statement said that only 30 per cent of the total amount of crops allowed to enter here were brought from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip following the disengagement largely due to difficulties faced by West Bank exporters.

The statement said the Israelis have been limiting the number of trucks laden with vegetables and fruits from crossing the bridges and have been imposing other restrictions on travel and curfews in many areas. The Israelis have also imposed heavy taxes on the producers and merchants of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and have imprisoned those who work on the land, the statement said. As a result of these measures the Israelis have drastically reduced the amount of exported crops, the statement added. The statement listed a wide variety of vegetables and fruits which have been allowed to cross into the Kingdom through the bridges and those allowed to be marketed in Arab countries.

Seminar on natural resources reviews prospecting, exporting

AMMAN (Petra) — Directors-general of the Arab Potash Company (APC), Jordan Phosphates Mines Company (JPMC), Natural Resources Authority (NRA) and deputy director general of the Arab Mining Company (AMC), as well as president of the Jordanian Geologists Association were the main speakers at a symposium on natural resources in Jordan, organised by the Jordanian Geologists Association's Cultural Committee.

Nsaur outlined the importance of Jordan's geographic situation, which, he said, has helped the company to market 70 per cent of its production to two major regions, situated to the east of Suez Canal, namely the Arab Peninsula, the Indian sub-continent, South East Asian countries, the Japanese islands, Philippines, Australia and New Zealand.

Nsaur pointed out that the prices of potash worldwide have been on the decline during the

years 1985, 1986 and 1987 because of 'cut-throat' competition among producers.

JPMC Director-General Wasef Azar talked about his company's plans to develop its technical capacities, to be able to undertake scientific experiments and research on phosphate ores in the various production sites.

He added that the company has carried tests on the production of compound fertilisers, which will suit the soil in New Zealand.

NRA Director-General Kamal Jreisat said that studies and surveys carried out by the company found that raw materials were available in large quantities in Jordan. He said that such material can be used for various industrial purposes.

AMC's deputy director-general reviewed the role of the company in developing and exploiting mineral resources. He pointed out that the company's capital is 12 million Kuwaiti dinars, shared by several Arab countries.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

Islamic leader congratulates King

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday received a congratulatory cable from Sheikh Jad Ul Haq Ali Ul Haq, chairman of the World Islamic Council, congratulating him on the Great Arab Revolt and the Army Day. In his cable, Sheikh Jad Ul Haq praised King Hussein's honourable stands in support of Arab causes and voiced full support for Jordan in its efforts to counter the Zionist conspiracies. He called on the Islamic and Arab countries to extend the necessary support for Jordan to enable it to face the challenges and difficulties facing it.

House to discuss laws annulments

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament's legal committee will hold a meeting Wednesday under the chairmanship of Deputy Hussein Mujalli. The committee is scheduled to discuss a draft law for the annulment of the National Medical Institution in 1990, an amendment for the military service law for the year 1990, an amendment to the Jordanian universities law in 1990 and an amendment to the higher education law in 1990.

Faqir leaves for Baghdad

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ali Al Faqir leaves for Baghdad Wednesday to take part in the meetings of ministers of Awqaf in the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), which will be held there Thursday.

Jordanian envoy meets Syrian officials

DAMASCUS (Petra) — Jordan's Ambassador to Syria Nayef Al Hadid was received Tuesday by the Syrian prime minister's Deputy for Economic Affairs Salim Yassin. Hadid also met the Syrian Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Mohammad Al Amad. Hadid discussed in the meetings the ties between Jordan and Syria and ways to bolster and promote them.

Jordan attends Olympic committees

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan took part in the meetings of the Olympic committees federation which convened in Barcelona, Spain between June 3 and 9. Jordan's delegation, which was headed by Minister of Youth Ibrahim Al Ghababsheh, also attended the meetings of the Arab committees, which preceded the federation's meetings. In the meetings the Arab committees affirmed the need to support the Palestinian Olympic Committee's demand to join the federation and Jordan's demand to list the kwon doo and squash as Olympic games officially.

Samra attends university graduation

AMMAN (Petra) — University of Jordan President Mahmoud Al Samra Tuesday attended a graduation ceremony held at the university to celebrate the graduation of 723 students from the faculties of arts and law. At the end of the celebration, which was attended by senior military and civic officials and a number of teaching staff, Samra delivered certificates to the graduating students. The graduates include 593 students from the Faculty of Arts and 150 students from the Faculty of Law.

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Nothing to hide from the world

IT IS QUITE refreshing to hear Amnesty International welcoming the process of change in Jordan as contributing to safeguarding human rights in the Middle East. The report of the human rights watchdog comes at a time when Jordan is poised to consolidate the gains of its democratisation process into long-term landmarks in its history through legislation. The report contains many positive points in favour of Jordan, particularly when considering that democracy is still in infancy in the Kingdom.

In this vein, we would like to point out that Amnesty's reference to the new defence law, which is expected to be debated by Parliament soon, does not appear to have taken into consideration the fact that the legislation, as and when approved by Parliament, does not automatically take effect or replace the defence law of 1935. Indeed, the law may be strict in its provisions and options, but then the sensitive nature of the region and the circumstances that we live in have to be seen as the most significant element in the drafting of the legislation. Some parameters that apply to other Third World countries cannot be applied and others can only be selectively applied while assessing Jordan or its record if only because of the unique peculiarities of the Kingdom and the region.

In any event, the Jordanian leadership has made it abundantly clear that the new defence law would only be enacted in cases of extreme emergencies or crises and it would need a cabinet recommendation as well as a royal decree before it is enforced. Over and above everything, the legislation has to secure the approval of the elected parliament, which, we are sure Amnesty will agree, is one that took office in one of the freest elections held in the Arab World.

The reference in the report to the death penalty still in effect in Jordan may have a point or two, but then the issue is so universal that it is debatable to no end. However, we would like to have seen the report mention that the death penalty has been very selectively applied in the Kingdom despite the fact that the provisions in the law of the land are rather broad based.

In the final analysis, however, we cannot but see the Amnesty report as another tribute to the changing times in Jordan. We are living and learning, with our eyes set much farther ahead, and have nothing to hide from the world.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

AL RA'I described the formation of the new Israeli government a declaration of war on the Arabs, a long war which means further disasters for the Arabs but a kind of suicide for Israel. The paper said that with the formation of an extremist rightist government in Israel there can be no chance for moderation or stability in the Middle East, and the situation will sooner or later be sliding towards the dangerous precipice. Yitzhak Shamir was not satisfied by bringing in very extreme elements but he chose on his side those ministers who have declared plans for stifling the intifada and want to launch more acts of aggression on the Arabs, said the paper. The nature of the new Israeli government is a flagrant defiance of all efforts designed to create an opportune climate for peace in the region, and it is indeed a threat to the idea of peace, the paper continued. There is no doubt that any new war between the Israelis and the Arabs will be a long one, but the dangers inherent in such a conflict are bound to be tragical for the Israeli society, the paper added. It is interesting to see whether extremism will further cement U.S.-Israeli ties or will cause differences between them because of the new government's policies that would result in a new explosion, Al Ra'i said.

NO ONE should believe that the United States will have sharp differences with the Jewish state over its policies in the Arab region, columnist in Al Ra'i said. Tareq Masarweh said that all that Washington can do, if it is not satisfied with the attitude of its Israeli ally, is to wash its hands of the Middle East question, something which it had been threatening to do all the time. But at the same time Washington will not doubt continue to provide absolute support for the Israelis in their actions and financial aid to enable them to carry out their ambitious designs in the Arab region, the writer said. Of course, the Arabs should not reject a settlement with Israel, but they ought to make Washington understand that a settlement with a government like that of Yitzhak Shamir is out of the question because he and his men have no political credibility, the columnist wrote. On the other hand Israel is no doubt bent now on suppressing the Palestinian uprising and is no doubt intent on implementing the other plans which include the deportation of Palestinians to southern Lebanon or to Jordan and the imposition of an Israeli-style autonomy rule on the occupied West Bank and Gaza, the writer continued. He said that the Arabs had to understand that the new Israeli government is a "high dam" standing in the face of any political settlement.

SAWT AL SHAAB said that Shamir and his new government are now expected to carry out their plan of absorbing more Jews, stifling the intifada and perpetuating Israel's occupation of Arab land. The paper said that the new government in Israel will close one door after another for any lingering prospects for a peaceful settlement with the Arabs. Not only will this government pursue efforts to commit massacres in Arab lands, but will also threaten the existence of the neighbouring Arab countries, the paper said. For this reason we believe that Jordan is confronting a very dangerous moment in its history, the paper said. The situation, the paper added, prompts Jordan and the Palestinians to issue an urgent appeal to the Arabs to help stop this danger from engulfing the Arab Order and ruining the Arab Nation's future prospects of living in peace.

ECONOMIC FORUM

Going back to the Income Tax Law

By Dr. Abdalla Malki

SURELY you remember that piece of legislation which was hotly debated in the Lower House of Parliament before it rose for its summer vacation. Of course, I am talking about the Income Tax Law. In the present extraordinary session of parliament, the law will be considered by the Senate. If you earn more than JD 100 a month, you must be very interested in that legislation because it gave the taxman a licence to be at your heels and after your money. Let us, however, recall the main events.

Actually we had two pieces not one: Provisional Income Tax Law No. 4 (1989) and Provisional Income Tax Law

No. 40. (1989). A provisional law must be approved by the two houses of Parliament but is enforced until it is rejected by them. Law No. 4 tightened the screws on banks and financial companies and was calmly received by all parties, including banks. The story was completely different with Law No. 40, which stirred nationwide outcry, and resentment as well. This law raised income tax rates, practically on all persons, irrespective of the very nice words used to present it to the public opinion such as its being very kind to low-income groups. Law income seemed to mean income less than around JD 1,200 per annum, which was very low indeed measured by

the standards of a high inflation era. The resentment stemmed from the fact that the tax increases came at a period of both soaring costs of living and unemployment. However, it was particularly very harsh to banks and financial companies as it set the average tax rate on their income at a minimum of 35 per cent. To understand that, remember that the maximum marginal, not even the average, tax rate on bank income in the U.S. is 28 per cent. Average rates are less than marginal ones.

The Financial Committee of the Lower House studied both laws. Some members thought that Law No. 40 was unconsti-

tutional and therefore wanted to reject it as a whole without even discussing any of its articles. Eventually, the committee rejected the individual articles of Law No. 40 on technical and economic grounds, which was practically the same as rejecting it due to unconstitutionality. The committee addressed itself only to the gentler Law No. 40. When the debate started, the House seemed to be on its way to adopt the recommendations of the committee. To the government, the attitude of the House was outrageous and was about to cause certain resignations from the Cabinet. As the debate was drawing to a close, a deal was struck between the government and the deputies.

The government agreed to the dropping of Law No. 40 provided its article setting minimum tax on bank income at 35 per cent be transferred to Law No. 4 and be approved by the House. That was done after cutting down that percentage to 30 per cent. Thus the harsh Law No. 40 was rejected by the House of Representatives and Law No. 4 was approved after introducing minor revisions to it. The deal had been made on the expense of banks!

But that is not the end. Provisional Law No. 4 has to be approved by the Senate so as to become effective and Law No. 40 has also to be rejected by the Senate before being scrapped.

Time is passing but the government is not in a hurry. Actually, it must be happy for that, and the explanation is very simple.

The effective tax legislation now is Law No. 40 which did repeal, at the time it was issued, Law No. 4, with its very high tax rates. It will continue in force until it shall have been rejected by the Senate and that rejection is endorsed by the King and published in the official gazette. It is only then that Law No. 4 comes in force. Income Tax collected during the first five months of this year approximated JD 90 million, that is 90 per cent of income tax projected for the whole fiscal year. The only party in a hurry must be taxpayers.

Cheney: Only peace talks can bring Israel 'real security'

WASHINGTON — U.S. Secretary of Defence Richard Cheney says that while the United States remains committed to ensuring Israel's security and qualitative military edge, it is also committed to pursuing a comprehensive peace settlement.

"Israel's security depends upon the success of this process," Cheney's told the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) annual policy conference June 11.

"Real security (for Israel) can only come through successful negotiations with Palestinians and Arab States that leads to a durable peace. This is the objective that the United States has pursued this year," he said.

Cheney said the United States has sought to develop a step-by-step process designed to translate the principles of U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338 into reality. The starting point, he stressed, is "a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue in Cairo leading to elections and negotiations."

Following is an unofficial transcript of Cheney's remarks:

I know there are a lot of people who think that the Middle East is a tough policy area, full of frustrations and political land mines. But, in some ways, this is a piece of cake. If I weren't here I'd probably be negotiating this morning with Congress about my defence budget.

Earlier this morning, I know that Vice-President Quayle gave you an overview of the administration's policies on the Middle East. And I do not intend to go over that ground again. Suffice it to say that the U.S. commitment to Israel remains absolutely solid and unalterable.

We have, from time to time, had our differences of opinion. There is not an ally in the world with whom we have not had an occasional disagreement, but show me a marriage in which there have never been disagreements and I'll show you a couple with no personality.

The important thing in a good

relationship is to remember that disagreements are not all there is. As long as the foundation remains strong, the relationship will, too. We understand that Israel has had to struggle to preserve itself. We understand that no country can be expected to take a risk for peace unless it feels secure. Rest assured, therefore, that the United States remains committed to insuring Israel's security, and we will continue to support Israel's qualitative military edge in the region.

At the same time, we are also committed to pursuing a comprehensive peace settlement. Israel's security depends upon the success of this process. Israel must remain strong to secure that peace, but weapons and technology alone are not sufficient. Real security can only come through successful negotiations with Palestinians and Arab states that leads to a durable peace. This is the objective the U.S. has pursued this year.

The principles underlying our approach are well known. They build on U.S. Resolutions 242 and 338, on the concept of territory for peace. They are built on the understanding that Israel must have secure and defensible borders. And they are built on the recognition that there must be a comprehensive peace that creates peace not only between Israel and the Palestinians but between Israel and all its Arab neighbours.

We have sought to develop a step-by-step process designed to translate those principles into reality; the starting point: A Palestinian-Israeli dialogue in Cairo leading to elections and negotiations. The process will enhance Israel's security, and the process built on the premise of Israel's May 14, 1989, initiative deserves a positive response. It also requires the Arab states, besides Egypt, to demonstrate their commitment to reconciliation with Israel. There are no easy alternatives.

Peace clearly also has to mean

an end to terrorism. The United States is horrified by the May 30th attack off the beaches near Tel Aviv. As President Bush said last Friday, the dialogue between the U.S. and the PLO is predicated on a renunciation of terrorism. To make peace, of course, Israel needs to be strong, and the United States has always been committed to helping Israel preserve that strength through our special relationship.

We will continue to be committed to that relationship. Like any good relationship, this one has many sides: cultural, political, military, economic.

Last week President Bush and Soviet President Gorbachev had a successful and productive summit meeting here in Washington. The meetings reflected the historic changes that have taken place in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union over the last year. The relationship between the two superpowers clearly has been moving to a new footing. I think we can safely say that the Warsaw Pact is no longer a dangerous military alliance, and NATO's fear of sudden Soviet invasion of Western Europe has been dramatically reduced. Obviously, these changes have been for the good. However, there remain many uncertainties.

Such concerns, obviously, are not limited to the Asian Pacific region. A few months ago, a Washington Post headline said that partly because of the changes in U.S.-Soviet relations, an anxious Israel fears that the world and especially the U.S. is losing interest in it. Sometime later, a Washington Jewish Week headline wondered whether the end of the cold war will mean that Israel will be less of a strategic asset. These concerns, in my opinion, are based on misconceptions about the nuts and bolts of strategic cooperation and about the global sweep of U.S. national security interest. I'll speak about strategic cooperation first.

In 1983, President Reagan and Prime Minister Shamir agreed to

a formal relationship of strategic cooperation between the U.S. and Israel. Since then, the two countries' strategic ties have become closer than ever. Let me be clear that I am talking not only about what goes on at the top levels of government. I am also talking about a day to day working relationship and information sharing all up and down the line.

For example, our military services have been conducting valuable exercises with the Israelis for some time, and will continue to do so. In addition, Israel is slated to get 35 per cent of the administration's fiscal 1991 budget request for security assistance.

Israel is due to begin taking delivery on its third order of F-16 aircraft in 1991. We also expect the Israeli Defence Force to be getting its first Apache attack helicopter soon, and we are funding a portion of Israel's naval modernisation programme.

There was also a significant increase during the 1980s in the U.S. procurements of Israeli defence products. These procurements went from a level of \$51 million in 1984 to almost \$351 million last year. That's a concrete demonstration of the level of cooperation and mutual support between our two nations. Of course, future spending levels may depend in part on size of the overall U.S. defence budget.

Finally, the United States has a number of joint research and development projects underway with Israel, including several that are part of our Strategic Defence Initiative, or SDI. In fact, in dollar terms Israel has been the largest foreign participant in SDI programme. Major SDI projects in Israel have included:

- An Israeli test bed programme to develop a computer-based analysis centre to evaluate theatre missile defence designs;
- The hypervelocity gun programme, to explore methods of achieving very high rates of projectile acceleration;
- And, of course, the Arrow anti-tactical ballistic missile ex-

periment, aimed at determining the feasibility of developing a defensive capability against tactical ballistic missiles.

Of course, SDI is only one of several sources for U.S.-Israeli cooperative research and development. Other programmes include ones:

- to develop anti-armor warhead technology;
- to improve the self-propelled Howitzer;
- to modify the laser night attack system used in Cobra helicopters, and
- to develop and produce and improve tactical air-launched decoy system.

And that's just a sample of some of the projects we have underway.

I mentioned all of these specific programmes because I want it to be understood that we do not consider our relationship with Israel to flow in only one direction. The United States provides aid and assistance to Israel but we also get national security benefits in return. The relationship has been cooperative in the truest sense of that word.

So far I have been talking about ongoing programmes, but I'd also like to look ahead for the moment. How should we expect changes in the Soviet Union and in Eastern Europe to affect the security relationship between Israel and the United States. That is perhaps the key question that has been on the minds of many supporters of Israel.

If we look only at specific programmes along the lines of the ones I've just mentioned, the answers are not obvious. The U.S. defence budget is shrinking, that clearly will mean less money available for all sorts of military projects. On the other hand, the need to use defence dollars efficiently will probably push us even more toward cooperative research, development and co-production. The specific impact, therefore, will vary by country and by programme. But on a broader level, the answers are

much more clear cut. The threat of a Soviet land invasion in Europe may have declined, but the Soviet strategic arsenal is still a threat and perestroika has a long, long way to go.

More importantly, as you in this audience well know, what has been happening in Eastern Europe does not do away with the threat of violence erupting in other parts of the world, and many of those threats could easily bear upon interests that are vital to the United States.

As friends of Israel well know, these claims can endanger the peace and threaten the stability of an entire region. If those kinds of situation threaten important interests of the United States or our allies, we must be prepared to exert a restraining influence. And sometimes, unavoidably, that will require us to use American military power.

I said earlier that the U.S. commitment to Israel is absolutely unshakable, and it is. But the real-world value of our commitments to any ally depends on our ability to project American power. To put it simply, our commitments are only as good as our ability to back them up. At a time when budgets are shrinking, that will require a highly trained, mobile, and flexible force supported by sophisticated equipment, developed and forward looking research and development efforts.

Some who like to portray themselves as great friends of Israel are also in the forefront of those who want to cut the heart out of the United States defence budget. They seem to think that we can weaken our position globally without harming our ability to help our close friends. I believe those two positions are fundamentally incompatible. We in the United States must not let ourselves become just another regional power. If we do, we and our friends such as Israel may ultimately have to suffer the consequences.

—USIA

Communism shows deep roots in Bulgaria

By Meriel Beattie

Reuters

SOFIA — Bulgarian opposition supporters, stunned by predictions that former Communists have won the country's first free elections in four decades, are reacting with a mixture of anger and incredulity.

"This chance, and all this work and for what, for what?" said one voter who claimed to have supported the Union of Democratic Forces (UDF) since it was founded seven months ago.

"This country has just voted in the only officially, freely elected Communist Party in Eastern Europe."

The polls Sunday and a second round on June 17 complete a series of elections in Central and East European Countries which have ousted hardline Communist leaders.

But Bulgaria, where reformist Communists replaced hardline leader Todor Zhivkov last November, is the first where a former Communist Party seems to have retained majority support in multi-party elections.

As the nation waited for full official results of Sunday's first round, forecasts based on a vote sample by the West German institute INFAS put the former communists, regrouped as the Bulgarian Socialist Party (BSP), in the lead with 47.6 per cent.

This would translate into 98 of the 200 seats in the 400-member national assembly to be decided on a proportional basis.

INFAS gave the UDF, whose leaders had said they were confi-

dent of an absolute majority, 36.2 per cent.

In a number of regions the UDF alleged foul play by election officials, despite reports by international observers that the elections were remarkably fair.

But UDF officials also blame fear of reprisals and conservatism for the large BSP vote.

"These were old, scared people who did not understand what was happening," UDF head of external relations Stefan Tsvetkov told Reuters. "We are losing time. The people will suffer as a result of this immaturity."

Western diplomats in Sofia say the explanation for BSP support is partly historical.

Unlike Hungary and Czechoslovakia, which have both ditched their Communist governments, Bulgaria never had Soviet troops stationed permanently on its soil.

And hundreds of roads snaking through peasant villages are still dotted with concrete monuments proclaiming "Bulgarian and Soviet Communist parties — friendship for ever."

An East European envoy commented: "It is true that communism is more deeply rooted here than elsewhere in the East Bloc. And there is no doubt that the BSP's election campaign was slicker."

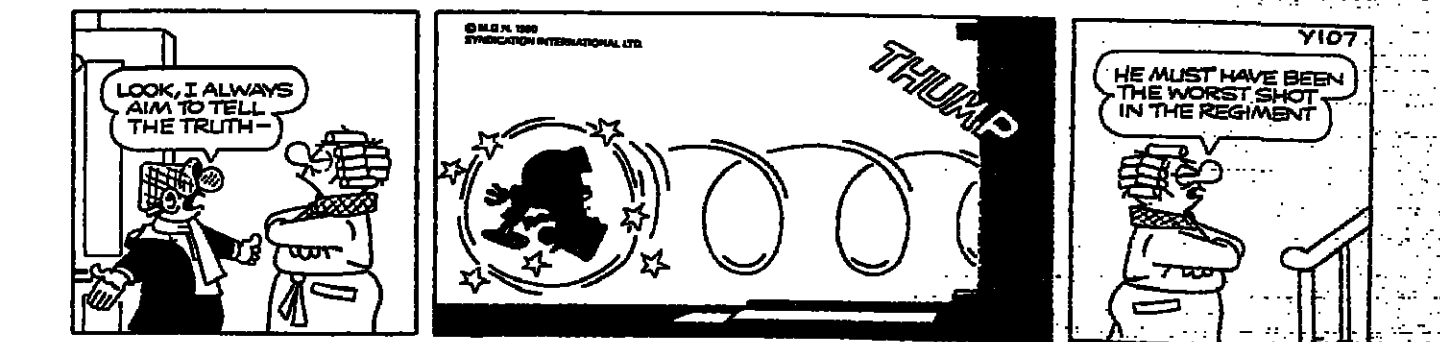
As well as changing their name, the BSP made full use of the national infrastructure, media, and regional offices the old Communist party had monopolised for 45 years.

In many towns the once cheerless party offices were transformed into pavement cafes with video screens and rock music.

Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



Sign language interpreter-training programme at the National Speech and Hearing Centre in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — A deaf man from an isolated village is jailed. He is accused of killing a member of a neighbouring tribe because this tribe has allegedly murdered a member of his family. This deaf man cannot read or write nor does he know much of the deaf sign language as he has never been to school spending his childhood and adulthood as a shepherd. The court tries to call an interpreter for the deaf. Where will the judge find one as there are few trained interpreters for the deaf available in Jordan. If a sign language interpreter is found, how will this interpreter make sure the deaf man's side of the story is understood? Can the judge guarantee this deaf man a fair trial? Who will pay for the interpreter?

These are just a few of the critical issues which 14 Jordanian hearing students are discussing in a unique training programme for interpreters for the deaf sponsored by the National Speech and Hearing Centre funded by the United Nations Development Project with informational input from faculty in Deaf Education from Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas U.S.

This five-month project is one of the many projects initiated by Manal Hamzeh, the director of the National Speech and Hearing Centre which is part of the Ministry of Health. The centre offers the only comprehensive programme for Jordanian citizens with speech, language, and hearing impairments as well as information and support for their families. For example, the centre conducts speech and hearing evaluations, speech rehabilitation for children and adults, sign language classes for parents and their deaf children and most recently a training

course to prepare sign language interpreters for the deaf. The interpreter-training project headed by Hamzeh, began in March and April of this year when Hind Abed Rabbo, Jordan's first T.V. sign language interpreter visited several interpreter-training programmes in Texas and Louisiana, U.S. For 7 weeks, Abed Rabbo consulted with interpreter-training administrators, instructors, students and members of the American deaf community. She attended numerous workshops, classes and conferences to gather information on how to set up interpreter training in Jordan.

Currently, 14 professionals in deaf education from the Salt school, Queen Alia's school, Raja school, and Al Amal school were selected to participate in this project. These students expressed an interest in increasing their sign language and knowledge about interpreting procedures.

Dr. Robert Moulton and Dr. Jean Andrews, professors of Deaf Education from Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas U.S. came to Amman and lectured to these 14 students at the National Speech and Hearing Centre on such topics as: the psychology of deafness, the benefits of sign language for psychological, social-emotional and linguistic development of deaf people, the limits of using speech, impaired hearing and lipreading as a method of communication for the severe and profoundly deaf individual, the ethics of interpreting for different populations of deaf persons in various settings (i.e. in hospitals, clinics, court, schools, business, on T.V., at the mosque). The class also discussed how many Jordanian deaf citizens are often isolated in villages or hidden in the homes by their families; consequently, these

deaf persons do not know much sign language. Interpreters, therefore, must use mime, pantomime pictures and drawings and perhaps the assistance of an intermediary deaf interpreter in order to fulfill their role as interpreter for them in court or in the hospitals and clinics.

Additionally, Hamzeh, director of the centre will lecture to the interpreter class on the Temporary Legislation 244 (1989) which was designed to take care of the handicapped in Jordan. Hamzeh states that this legislation is weak and needs to be clarified with specific policies addressing the highly specialised needs of deaf individuals and their families, teachers of the deaf and sign language interpreters. She urges all parents of deaf children and their families as well as professionals in deaf education to participate in revising and strengthening this legislation as it will critically affect the lives of deaf children and adults in Jordan.

Following the six weeks of lectures from the two university professors from the U.S., Abed Rabbo is conducting a formal class in Jordanian sign language, thus building on the sign language skills of her students. Abed Rabbo is assisted by her deaf brother, Sabri Abed Rabbo and Najah Taffal. Both assistants are active members of the deaf community and native users of Jordanian sign language. As a team, they will teach core sign language vocabulary, assist students in building up speech and accuracy in using sign as well as voicing in spoken Arabic the signs of the deaf. It is Abed Rabbo's goal to train several interpreters who may share with her the sign language interpretation of the Thursday evening TV news. Additionally, this project will train inter-

preters to assist the deaf community throughout Jordan.

During the last week of the project in August, Carla Carey, a deaf woman who is studying for her Masters Degree in Deaf Education at Lamar University will come to Amman for one week to evaluate the project. Carey will be accompanied by her husband, Shawn Carey, who is also deaf and is employed as an auto mechanic in Beaumont, Texas. The Careys will lecture to the deaf adults — both men and women from their clubs — on how the deaf person may best utilize the services of an interpreter.

During Dr. Robert Moulton and Dr. Jean Andrews' stay in Amman, they were able to visit deaf classrooms at Baqa'a and Suf refugee camps and the Irbid school for the deaf. Moulton and Andrews met with officials at the Ministry of Social Development to discuss procedures to set up a licensing board for the sign language interpreters in Jordan. Additionally, the American consultants met with parents of deaf children at the centre and advised them to learn sign language in order to maximise the psychological, socio-emotional and linguistic growth of their deaf children. It was pointed out that years can be lost of linguistic development if the parents fail to intervene with a visible mode of communication. A special class has already been set up by Hamzeh at the National Speech and Hearing Centre for parents and their deaf children to learn sign language.

The National Speech and Hearing Centre has also provided the space for 35 to 50 deaf women from the area to establish a deaf women's club. Traditionally, the deaf women have been excluded from the

deaf men's club and consequently have had no place of their own to meet and socialise with each other. According to Najah Taffal, the deaf woman leader of this club, "deaf women are isolated from their peers and have spent years

alone at home with no one to communicate with them. Our club provides a place where the deaf women can get together, exchange news, make new friends and have fun time. We hope to develop some small business of our own in the future."

The interpreter-training project has benefited from having the deaf woman at the centre during their class time as it gives them the opportunity to interact with more members of the deaf community — a segment of the Jordanian com-

munity that have been grossly neglected. The American consultants believe that the Jordanians will be able to independently train their own interpreters after this five-month project with the assistance of the Jordanian deaf community.

The next project on the planning board for the National Speech and Hearing Centre is to identify key leaders in the Jordanian deaf community and have them tell stories in sign language on the TV. Attention, therefore, will be focused on providing sign language input to the hundreds of Jordanian deaf children who need to

develop more their communication skills so they can participate more fully in family and community life and as they grow older, better utilize the services of sign language interpreters even at the university level for capable deaf students.



Politics is chronic even in Chinese countryside

By Jim Abrams
Associated Press

WUHAN, China — E Desheng, a 27-year-old tea seller who has never left home, is a veteran traveller of the socialist road, sensitive to political nuances.

E lives in rural Huashan township and says he has not ventured farther than Wuhan, the provincial capital 19 kilometres away. Like almost everyone in this tightly regimented nation, however, he reads the signs from Beijing. 1,120 kilometres to the north.

A member of the Communist Youth League, he attends weekly meetings "to study how to keep on the socialist road and take the lead in learning from Lei Feng," a legendary footsoldier venerated for selflessly doing good deeds and loving the Communist Party.

Emulating Lei and protecting socialism from "bourgeois liberalism" are central themes of the nationwide ideological campaign that began after the government sent troops to crush the pro-democracy movement a year ago. Whatever his expressed interest in politics, the young tea seller speaks with far more animation of his two-storey home and 3-year-old son. Like most Chinese in the countryside, he probably keeps up with politics only in hopes of achieving a more prosperous life.

A recent press tour of Hubei province in central China, organized by the foreign ministry, revealed how difficult it is even for ordinary citizens to escape Beijing's latest political campaign.

Zuo Wenqing, an official in Huashan, said political education had been increased. "On orders of the central government, we strengthened the connection between cadres and workers and taught farmers to love the country, lead a simple life and work harder," he said.

Ma Yue, executive vice president of the 80,000-worker second automobile works in Shiyan, Western Hubei, said classes were begun after the June 1989 crackdown to study the works of Deng Xiaoping and other party leaders.

"Political education is quite important," Ma said. "We shouldn't be motivated only by money."

People in Hubei are bombarded by political slogans on road signs, in publications and in factories.

Many deal with such mundane issues as family planning or traffic safety. Others, including stone carvings embedded in railroad embankments that read "long live the Communist Party," probably date from the 1966-76 cultural revolution.

One slogan in a small Huashan collective factory, reflecting the now-muzzled economic reform sentiments of the mid-1980s, proclaimed: "time is money, profit is life."

Lei Feng slogans have begun appearing in every factory. "The spirit of Lei Feng is the traditional virtue of the Chinese people," said one in a Wuhan machinery

bloodiest fighting of the cultural revolution occurred in Wuhan. Despite the tradition, most Hubei residents probably are just going through the motions of the latest political campaign, like their counterparts in Beijing.

As in the rest of China, all Communist Party members in Hubei factories and offices have been told to register again. The purpose is to weed out those tainted by pro-democracy sympathies, but it appears few in Hubei are in danger of expulsion.

Huang Mobin, president of the Wuhan Iron and Steel Corp., which has 120,000 employees, said with pride that not a single worker went to Beijing last year to join the demonstrations.

"It's true that workers dislike unequal distribution of property and profiteering, but they are more dissatisfied with the students and instability," he said.

As in the rest of China, all Communist Party members in Hubei factories and offices have been told to register again. The purpose is to weed out those tainted by pro-democracy sympathies, but it appears few in Hubei are in danger of expulsion.

Often, the rhetoric is little more than a handy way to avoid prying questions.

Mayor Wu Fayu of Shiyan, after a speech attributing the city's progress to the Communist Party, the study of Marx and Mao and following the socialist road, was asked how Mao Tse-tung's thought guided him in his daily work.

"His general thought is a crystallization of the wisdom of the people," was the cryptic reply. A department store manager in Wuhan claimed following the socialist road was the key to his store's success.

He then said he was adopting new marketing systems that would foster competition between different sections of the store. Blaring in the background was a soundtrack of the American movie "Saturday Night Fever."

Nigeria's salvation rests in a large glass of beer

By Tunde Obidimu
Reuters

LAGOS — It doesn't taste quite like it used to, but sipping Nigerian beer is still a pleasant experience.

And the contents of every bottle give a flavour of how the federal government is trying to resuscitate the battered economy of black Africa's most populous nation.

Four years ago, imports of barley malt products were banned to conserve hard currency and force industry to use local materials as part of a plan to induce more self-sufficiency.

Brewers were stunned. They saw their industry doomed.

"Nobody thought it was possible to make beer without barley malt," said Niyi Yusuf, marketing director of the country's biggest brewery, Nigerian Breweries Ltd. (NBL).

The country's 28 brewers were forced to adapt their technology to "processing local grains — maize and sorghum. The cost has been high but the end product has gone down well among Nigerians at home and abroad, Yusuf said.

"It's more tasty and has more kick," Steven Ajayi, an official with the farmers' union in Ondo state, told Reuters.

The conversion has been so successful that most beer drinkers are oblivious to the change, Yusuf said. Others say Nigerians have simply forgotten how the old brew tasted.

The result is a shining example of how to adapt modern technology to local needs.

"It has been a forced creativity which has increased our technological know-how," Yusuf said.

And it is the kind of success story the government needs to bolster its much criticised four-year-old tough economic reform policies geared towards making Nigeria more self-reliant.

Faced with collapsed foreign earnings and a mountain of foreign debt, the Nigerian economy cannot continue supporting import-fed habits, analysts and government officials say.

In 1987, the government banned imports of wheat which were costing it around \$250 million a year. It accelerated its own wheat production programme but un-

fortunately, this is well short of the country's needs and many bakeries have been forced out of business because of a flour shortage.

Imports are also banned of rice, poultry, maize, fresh fruit, vegetable oils, processed wood and textile fabrics, to encourage and protect local output. Champagne is also banned.

Smuggling is widespread, but offenders can face life imprisonment.

At first, Nigerians found the new beer a poor substitute. "It left an unpleasant taste in the mouth," Ajayi said.

However, after years of refining their products, breweries have given local grain beer a character of its own. NBL's popular brands, Star and Guider, are even served in restaurants catering for Nigerians in London, Yusuf said.

Though brewers have survived the ban on barley malt imports and some are even making reasonable profits, the change over to local grains has been financially taxing.

No figures are available for

Faced with collapsed foreign earnings and a mountain of foreign debt, the Nigerian economy cannot continue supporting import-fed habits.

how much money the ban has saved the former British colony, but the gains have been reduced by having to fork out for enzymes, catalysts needed to process local grains. Domestic commodity prices have also soared.

"Ordinarily, sourcing raw materials locally should cost less, but in the Nigerian experience costs have gone up seven to ten times," said Olufemi Olufermi, a manager with Guinness Nigeria Limited.

The higher costs fed through to the bottle, a standard 60 centilitre bottle of beer now costs four naira (\$50) — a rise of more than 50 per cent in last year alone.

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

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JORDAN MARKET PLACE

Oil prices have hit bottom — Subroto

SINGAPORE (R) — Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Secretary-General Subroto said Tuesday that oil prices have hit bottom and ruled out emergency OPEC talks to prevent any further falls.

"We feel \$14.24 is more or less the bottom already," he told an oil conference in Singapore by telephone from OPEC headquarters in Vienna. "From now we will see a strengthening of prices instead of further weakening."

"We are not going to have a special meeting or an emergency meeting," he said.

Subroto said the OPEC reference basket of seven crudes averaged \$14.24 a barrel in the first week of June.

He said the OPEC's target of an \$18 per barrel average price for the whole of 1990 would not be achieved unless OPEC cut production further in the third quarter.

He said the market could not be stabilised by OPEC alone.

"The cooperation of independent petroleum exporting countries is absolutely necessary... we must all — OPEC and Non-OPEC producers — maintain restraint in production levels," Subroto said.

The target price of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries for this basket is \$18.

At emergency talks in May, OPEC ministers agreed to reduce production by just over 1.4 million barrels per day (bpd) to try to reverse the sharp drop in oil prices this year.

Prices have fallen again since then due to reports of continued high OPEC output. The Middle East benchmark crude, Dubai, fell a dollar last week to \$13.20 a barrel for July. July cargoes were quoted at \$13.30 on the Far East spot market Tuesday.

"The decision we took in May will be executed more in June and production will go down," Subroto told the conference in person but cancelled his trip because of the oil price crisis, organisers said.

In a paper presented on his

behalf, Subroto said prices were bound to improve. But "a real and lasting improvement can be reached only if the fundamentals of the market strengthen," he said.

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"The cooperation of independent petroleum exporting countries is absolutely necessary... we must all — OPEC and Non-OPEC producers — maintain restraint in production levels," Subroto said.

He said oversupply had led oil prices to fall well below \$18 this year.

"It is expected that this month of June should see an improvement in the price level," he said. "To achieve this improvement, OPEC member countries are expected to demonstrate even more convincingly their commitment to their allocated quotas, thus reducing the risk of another damaging price slide."

Subroto said the next OPEC conference, scheduled for July 25, would review the market's reaction to the May decision to reduce production. He said it may also review the quota system and OPEC's overall production ceiling.

"The decision of the conference in July... will determine to a large extent whether we shall start 1991 with a relatively strong



Subroto

or a weak oil market," he said.

Subroto said oil demand growth in 1991 is unlikely to exceed 1.5 to 1.7 per cent due to the relative slowdown in the rate of oil consumption in the Newly Industrialising Countries (NICs). But he said many uncertainties surrounded oil demand forecasts.

"The developments taking place in Eastern Europe may not translate into a surge in oil demand as soon as we would like," he said. "These countries will need time to restructure their economies before they can even think about embarking on the path of economic growth."

Subroto said the Soviet Union, the world's largest oil producer, was of key importance when estimating demand.

"It is quite feasible that as this vast country increases its endeavours to stimulate its own economic activity, it will choose to go over to trading its oil for convertible currencies, thus causing its East European neighbours to turn to the international oil markets for their oil supplies."

Third World presents plan to lift textile curbs

GENEVA (R) — Third World textile producers Tuesday proposed the phasing out of all curbs on their exports in six years to bring the multi-billion dollar sector fully under the free trade rules of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the world trade watchdog.

The 22-nation International Textiles and Clothing Bureau (ITCB) circulated a 12-page plan to members of the textiles negotiating group at the Uruguay round of world trade talks.

It proposes scrapping the current multi-fibre arrangement (MFA), which governs about half the world's trade in textiles and clothing, when it expires July 31 next year.

This 51-nation accord allows industrialised countries to protect their domestic textile industries through individual agreements limiting foreign imports.

Developing countries still use textiles as the first rung on the ladder to industrialisation, following in the footsteps of Britain's pioneering industrial revolution last century.

Developed countries, which have tried to keep such exports of cheap cloth and clothing from

killing their own uncompetitive textile industries, are coming under increasing pressure to loosen up as the world trade talks near their end.

Under the ITCB scheme, those import curbs would be lifted in four stages from August 1, 1991 until their total elimination by the end of 1997. During this period, import quotas would be enlarged by fixed annual percentages.

The Third World exporters completed their draft at a meeting in Hong Kong last month for submission to a three-day session in Geneva this week of the Uruguay round textiles group.

ITCB members are Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Egypt, El Salvador, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Macao, Maldives, Mexico, Pakistan, Peru, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Uruguay and Yugoslavia.

Bringing trade in textiles and clothing fully under the rules of GATT is a major objective of the four-year Uruguay round of talks, which cover 14 other sectors of international commerce and are due to conclude next December.

The United States, the world's largest importer, and Canada have submitted separate proposals that would substitute quota schemes, setting limits for individual categories of products, while the textile sector was integrated progressively into GATT.

But the Third World exporters and the 12-nation European Community (EC) have rejected both plans, saying they would introduce more restrictions.

The EC has said it favours phasing out current restrictions with a parallel strengthening of GATT rules and disciplines to open up markets and create fair competitive conditions.

An EC official told reporters at a briefing in Brussels Monday that an EC paper to be presented at Tuesday's textile group meeting would set out ideas for phasing out barriers.

The official said the community was prepared to bring some products under GATT rules "right from the beginning."

The EC, the world's biggest textile trader, wants signatories of the final GATT plan to commit themselves to liberalising trade by setting and meeting tougher targets.

Asia's oil needs growing in 1990s

SINGAPORE (AP) — Prospering Asia's oil needs will grow by 2.2 million barrels a day in five years, an oil executive said Monday.

Japan, Southeast Asia and South Asia each would account for 400,000 barrels daily, China 500,000 barrels and South Korea and Taiwan together 500,000 barrels, said Bert Lotgering, director of supplies and trading for Shell Eastern Petroleum PTE. Limited.

This would bring Asia's daily total oil needs to 15 million barrels, he added.

"This bullish outlook reflects the expectation of a continual strong performance of the regional economy and resulting oil demand," Lotgering said at the Oil and Money Asia and the Pacific Conference.

In line with demand growth, more and more Asia Pacific countries are setting up new refineries or expanding old

ones, he said. These plans will add 2.1 million barrels daily of new refining capacity in this region by 1995, said Lotgering.

He said a glut in capacity may not be possible as there may be delays in adding refining capacity due to lack of funds or environmental concerns.

He also warned that the expected regional demand may not materialise due to political unrest in China. Politics and social issues may affect South Korea's economy, and reduction in oil subsidies to improve energy efficiency may cause a decline in demand, he added.

But, he said, "oil refining at present is a profitable business in the Asia-Pacific region and there is optimism about demand."

In the next 10 years, Asia-Pacific countries' economic growth is expected to average five per cent a year, significant

ly higher than in the rest of the world, said Hussein A. Linjawi, president and chief executive officers of Saudi Arabian Marketing and Refining Company.

"Oil demand in the region will continue to set the pace for the rest of the world with average annual growth of three per cent," he said.

Countries such as South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, the Philippines, India and Pakistan probably will show continued demand growth above the regional average, he added.

But moves in Singapore, Malaysia, and Hong Kong to substitute gas and coal for fuel oil will limit overall demand growth over the longer term, he said.

But environmental reasons, the demand for unleaded gasoline and low sulfur diesel and fuel oils definitely will increase, Hussein said.

Eastern Europe seeking \$12b in aid from West

BRUSSELS (AP) — European Community (EC) External Relations Commissioner Frans Andriessen said Monday Eastern European nations will seek \$12 billion in short to medium term financial aid from the West.

He suggested donor nations create a "multipurpose restructuring facility" to encourage economic reforms in Eastern Europe to "enhance the credit-worthiness of beneficiary countries (and) act as a deterrent against speculation, encourage private investment and help stabilise exchange rates."

Andriessen said a quota system for subscriptions could be developed based on "acceptable criteria for burden-sharing" and arrangements for "managing the facility would be worked out in close cooperation with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank."

The EC Commission is coordinating an aid programme for Poland and Hungary through which 24 donor nations have pledged \$13 billion in financial and other aid. Next month, the donor nations will likely extend the aid package to Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Romania and Yugoslavia.

Initial contacts with these countries "suggest" they will request standby credits and loans similar to those for Poland and Hungary, Andriessen said.

Hungary benefits from a five-year, \$1 billion loan to help it restructure its economy and Poland has access to a \$1 billion "stabilisation fund."

"Czechoslovakia is looking for a large standby facility, while Yugoslavia and Bulgaria are seeking different forms of financial support," Andriessen said.

"Taken together these and other likely requests will probably total at least 10 billion European currency units (ECU) (\$12.1

billion) in the short and medium term," he said in a speech in Berlin. A text of his address to a financial conference was released by the EC head office here.

Andriessen said the Polish stabilisation fund underpins "radical" reforms in Poland "which might otherwise have proved too risky. So far, it has not been necessary for Poland to draw on this facility demonstrating its success" in restructuring its economy.

He said East European nations face a challenging period.

"In the short run, the terms of trade will shift against the countries of central and Eastern Europe, whose goods are not yet internationally competitive, in favour of the Soviet Union, whose exports of energy and raw materials can more easily find hard currency outlets," Andriessen said.

Also, the Soviet Union may "not be willing or able" to supply basic commodities to East European nations and "may seek to increase imports of more advanced goods from the West, bypassing traditional East European suppliers," Andriessen said.

EIB's capital doubles

EC finance ministers agreed Monday to double the capital base of the European Investment Bank (EIB), the EC's long-term lending institution.

The ministers, acting as the EIB's board of governors, decided to raise the bank's subscribed capital from 28.8 to 57.6 billion European currency units (\$34.8 billion to \$69.6 billion).

The bank said it needed the capital increase to meet heightened demand for loans, stimulated by the prospect of the single European market for goods and services in 1993.

The EIB, which was founded

to provide credit for regional development and small and medium enterprises, had loans of 55 billion ECU (\$66.5 billion) outstanding at the end of 1989.

The ministers also ratified the bank's 300 million ECU (\$363 million) subscription to the capital of the recently formed European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) that help business in Eastern Europe.

The bank also said it has begun preparing for lending to East Germany. It said expected the governments to authorise the EIB to start operations in East Germany as soon as the economic, monetary and social union is implemented.

Draft EC budget

The EC executive body Monday also proposed a 1991 budget of 53 billion ECU (\$64 billion), up 13 per cent from this year.

The first draft will have to go through a long process before being formally adopted. The community's 12 budget ministers will have a first look at the proposal on July 26. The final word will rest with the European parliament.

The European Commission, the executive body, said the proposed budget was slightly more than one per cent of the trading bloc's gross domestic product, estimated at \$6,108 billion.

Under the proposal, farm expenses would rise to 30.3 billion ECU (\$36.7 billion), but they would be kept at 57 per cent of the budget.

The Commission stressed that, for the first time, so-called structural actions, aimed at developing the EC's most backward areas, would near 14 billion ECU (\$17 billion) up 20.5 per cent to 25 per cent of total expenses.

SAS to swap shares with Swissair

STOCKHOLM (R) — Scandinavian Airlines System said Monday it and Swissair would take 7.5 per cent stakes in each other as part of plans to form a European airline alliance.

The airlines hope to save tens of millions of dollars through the sharing of routes and other cooperation in the latest in a series of links between carriers serving Europe.

SAS said the deal will involve the issue of convertible debentures which will later be transformed into stock.

"The ambition is to establish a reciprocal cross ownership of 7.5 per cent... it is hoped the cross ownership can be realised in 18 months," SAS Financial Director Anders Claesson said in a statement.

The two companies last September announced plans to swap stakes of up to 10 per cent to form what they called the first major European airline alliance.

SAS President Jan Carlzon said larger stakes may be swapped in the future if cooperation proved

successful.

He said cooperation would initially bring combined cost savings of around 200 million crowns (\$32 million) a year. It was hoped savings would later reach a combined 600 million crowns (\$98 million) annually.

Swissair has said it expects to save around 50 million Swiss francs (\$34.7 million) within a few years by cooperating on certain routes.

Analysts see benefits for both airlines in the deal.

"With Swissair's connections in Africa and SAS's northern network the two can work together cutting flight times and improving use of capacity," said Mathias Loeliger, an analyst at Zurich Kantonalbank.

But some said achieving the cross-shareholding through the issue of new stock could dilute SAS's profit per share.

"It was not what I wished for and it looks like dilution," said Mikael Sjowall of brokers Kleinwort Benson Securities Limited. Others said it could prove diffi-

cult to conclude the deal because of rules governing foreign holdings in Swissair and because of the complicated ownership structure of SAS.

SAS is 50 per cent-owned by the governments of Sweden, Norway and Denmark through holding companies and the deal is subject to parliamentary approval.

Olle Hedberg, president of the Swedish holding company Aktieförbundet Aerotransport (ABA) confirmed that SAS's profit per share would be diluted as a result of the share swap but said there was no other solution.

"If this deal were not done the profit per share could fall even more as the profit as a whole would not grow at the same pace," Hedberg said.

Swissair and SAS are already associated in a cooperation agreement which spans Austrian Airlines and Finnair while Swissair has swapped of agreed to swap small stakes with Singapore Airlines, Delta Airlines of the United States.

U.S. foreign trade deficit shrinks

WASHINGTON (AP) — The deficit in the broadest measure of U.S. foreign trade shrank to \$22.94 billion from January through March, the lowest quarterly imbalance in six years, the government reported Tuesday.

The Commerce Department said America's current account trade deficit narrowed by 14 per cent in the first three months of the year, compared to a \$26.69 billion deficit in the final three months of 1989.

The improvement was credited to a record level of sales of American products overseas, which helped to reduce the merchandise trade deficit.

U.S. earnings on overseas investments and payments by foreigners for services such as travel and tourism also played a part in reducing the current account imbalance.

The first-quarter deficit was the smallest quarterly trade gap since a \$20.5 billion deficit in the first quarter of 1984.

The current account, also known as the balance of payments, is the most closely watched trade statistic because it measures not only trade in merchandise but also trade in services and investments.

Even with the first quarter improvement, the United States is beginning the new decade in a far different position than it began the 1980s.

Ten years ago, America was the largest creditor nation. It ran surpluses in its current account as the earnings on overseas investments were enough to offset perennial deficits in merchandise trade.

But as Americans banded over billions of dollars to foreigners in payments for imported cars and televisions, the investment cushion eroded. It disappeared altogether in 1985, when the United States became a net debtor for the first time in 71 years.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Tuesday, June 12, 1990
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	French franc	117.9	118.6
U.S. dollar	669.0	673.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	354.2	436.8
Pound Sterling	1132.2	1139.0	Dutch guilder	332.5	354.6
Deutschemark	396.6	399.0	Swedish crown	109.6	110.3
Swiss franc	466.0	468.8	Italian lire (for 100)	54.0	54.3
			Belgian franc (for 10)	192.4	193.6

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One Sterling	1.6980/90	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.1735/45	Canadian dollar	
	1.6915/20	Deutschemark	
	1.9030/40	Dutch guilders	
	1.4370/80	Swiss francs	
	34.76/81	Belgian francs	
	5.6925/75	French francs	
	1242/1243	Italian lire	
	154.60/70	Japanese yen	
	6.1125/75	Swedish crowns	
	6.4945/95	Norwegian crowns	
	6.4385/4435	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	355.20/70	U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — Stocks closed lower almost across the board on a weakened yen and a dearth of incentives. Futures-related and index-linked selling, mostly by foreign brokerages and domestic investment trust funds, exacerbated the selling in thin trading. The 225-share Nikkei Index shed 217.87 points to 32,322.31.

SYDNEY — Australia's share market ended a touch weaker when an afternoon drop on the Tokyo exchange offset a firmer morning session due to a rise in News Corp stock. The all ordinaries index finished 2.4 points lower at 1,501.5.

HONG KONG — Hong Kong's main stocks gauge, the Hang Seng index, rebounded 48.01 points to end at 3,203.00, just above tough psychological resistance at 3,200.

SINGAPORE — The market closed with widespread falls as cautious investors continued to liquidate their positions in a market that lacked fresh factors. The Straits Times industrial index lost 16.05 points to 1,540.84.

BOMBAY — Share prices fell under selling pressure from investors from northern India. The Bombay Stock Exchange Index fell 7.42 points to 787.36.

FRANKFURT — West German share prices fell from Monday's closing levels and ended near their lows of the day but just above the key 1,800 barrier on the 30-share Dax index, which shed 9.03 points to end at 1,800.36.

LONDON — Shares held on to much of their sharp early gains towards the close on continuing hopes of early sterling entry into the European exchange rate mechanism. At 1540 GMT the FTSE index was up about 31 points at 2,370.7.

NEW YORK — Wall Street shares turned mixed by late morning, as blue chips dipped into the minus column. Trading was quiet ahead of forthcoming economic reports. At 1543 GMT the Dow industrial index was off more than four points at 2,887.87.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY JUNE 13, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: There is sufficient energy generated today so you will be able to get a great deal accomplished if you will make it a point to look to your overall objectives, refraining from sarcasm.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Look to how you can best use your energies in the world of outside action to put your most ambitious ideas across and get the assistance of a bigwig.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) The scope of your activities with fellow workers can now be taken up and some very worthwhile decisions for the future quickly follow.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Many outlets that give or can give you pleasure should now be recognized and put in motion with the active suggestions give by congenial companions.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) There have been some enigmatic problems beneath your own roof that you can now take up if you have true desire to coordinate wishes with your family.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Look at your calendar and see if you have the appointments you desire with various persons who can be helpful to you in the future.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Although it is a good day you should seek out every sort of data

from your newspaper and other periodicals just how to best increase your income.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) The focus of the planetary configurations are on you today and its a day to forget others and go after the things that you want the most.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Take some time out now to get every speck of information you can that aids you to obtain those secretive longings that mean so much to you.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Consider well those companions you want in your life in the future and especially in the enjoyment of hobbies you really like.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Whichever is of a worldly or public nature can be carefully considered and just what moves you can make to gain the good will of prominent persons.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Your mind is working overtime deciding the best schools of thought and activities whereby you will be able to please your companions.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) This is the day when your hunches are strong and powerful, and by discriminating where they are concerned you will be able to come up with answers best for you.

THE Daily Crossword

by Betty Jonsson

ACROSS

- 1 Identical
- 5 George or Irwin
- 9 Highlander
- 13 Love god
- 14 Actress Shire
- 16 Ireland
- 17 Barones
- 19 Duvant
- 20 podria
- 21 Soaks fax
- 22 Skilled
- 24 Maiden of myth
- 25 Faction
- 26 Attempt
- 28 Overcame
- 32 Golf shoe part
- 33 Satisfy fully
- 34 Like a teleost
- 35 Toot
- 36 Complete
- 37 Celebrity
- 38 Like two peas in
- 39 — do well
- 40 Color
- 41 Expires
- 43 — were the days...
- 44 Type of tide
- 45 Friendly talk
- 46 Dormant
- 48 Pour down
- 50 Encountered
- 53 Meadowland
- 54 Louis Vuitton
- 57 Mentally balanced
- 58 Ramp sign
- 59 Race track
- 60 Algerian seaport
- 61 March date
- 62 Relate

DOWN

- 2 Desert shrub
- 3 Go to it
- 4 Frame of mind
- 6 Go wrong
- 8 Hard
- 9 Celebrity
- 7 Too bad!
- 8 Succeed
- 9 Marian Evans
- 10 Is in poor health
- 11 A Gardner
- 12 Be in front
- 15 One giving counsel
- 18 Old Eng. coin
- 23 Withth prof.
- 24 Barones
- 25 Karen Blixen
- 26 Go to Gretna Green
- 27 Minister in Madrid
- 28 Spouses
- 29 Controls
- 30 Sad
- 31 speech
- 32 Unit of force
- 32 Fellow
- 33 Make tea
- 36 Wreathed the surface
- 42 Notices
- 43 Carrell
- 48 Hollow stem
- 49 Pull up stakes
- 51 Latin abbr.
- 52 Cash drawer
- 55 Threes
- 56 Pin part

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS: 1. IDENTICAL, 5. GEORGE OR IRWIN, 9. HIGHLANDER, 13. LOVE GOD, 14. ACTRESS SHIRE, 16. IRELAND, 17. BARONES, 19. DUVANT, 20. PODRIA, 21. SOAKS FAX, 22. SKILLED, 24. MAIDEN OF MYTH, 25. FACTION, 26. ATTEMPT, 28. OVERCAME, 32. GOLF SHOE PART, 33. SATISFY FULLY, 34. LIKE A TELEOST, 35. TOOT, 36. COMPLETE, 37. CELEBRITY, 38. LIKE TWO PEAS IN, 39. — DO WELL, 40. COLOR, 41. EXPIRES, 43. — WERE THE DAYS..., 44. TYPE OF TIDE, 45. FRIENDLY TALK, 46. DORMANT, 48. POUR DOWN, 50. ENCOUNTERED, 53. MEADOWLAND, 54. LOUIS VUITTON, 57. MENTALLY BALANCED, 58. RAMP SIGN, 59. RACE TRACK, 60. ALGERIAN SEAPORT, 61. MARCH DATE, 62. RELATE.

DOWN: 2. DESERT SHRUB, 3. GO TO IT, 4. FRAME OF MIND, 6. GO WRONG, 8. HARD, 9. CELEBRITY, 7. TOO BAD!, 8. SUCCEED, 9. MARIAN EVANS, 10. IS IN POOR HEALTH, 11. A GARDNER, 12. BE IN FRONT, 15. ONE GIVING COUNSEL, 18. OLD ENG. COIN, 23. WITHTH PROF., 24. BARONES, 25. KAREN BLIXEN, 26. GO TO GRETTA GREEN, 27. MINISTER IN MADRID, 28. SPOUSES, 29. CONTROLS, 30. SAD, 31. SPEECH, 32. UNIT OF FORCE, 32. FELLOW, 33. MAKE TEA, 36. WREATHED THE SURFACE, 42. NOTICES, 43. CARRELL, 48. HOLLOW STEM, 49. PULL UP STAKES, 51. LATIN ABBR., 52. CASH DRAWER, 55. THREES, 56. PIN PART.

Uruguay faces twin test against Spain

UDINE (R) — Uruguay's billing as an outside bet for the World Cup title and their claim to have cleaned up a notoriously violent act face the acid test when they meet Spain in their opening match of the finals Wednesday.

The South Americans earned a distinguished reputation for brutality in the 1986 Mexico finals but coach Oscar Washington Tabarez has vowed to change the image of his squad and captain Enzo Francescoli has said Uruguay's rough days are over.

Spain will be the first to find out whether they are serious in a potentially explosive encounter in Group E, which includes Belgium and South Korea and is probably the toughest section of the finals.

Despite his pledge, Tabarez knows he will never have a team of choirboys and has said he hopes World Cup referees will at least tolerate some rugged Latin soccer excitement.

"It's to be expected that World Cup matches should be rough. There is too much pressure on players. They are all fired up and it's quite natural for them to lash out sometimes," he said.

But he added that referees need not worry that things might get out of hand as his team was concerned and said he backed FIFA's calls for fair play on the pitch.

Tabarez's only worry is the absence of key midfielder Santiago Ostolaza, out with a thigh

injury and likely to be replaced by young hopeful Ruben Pereira. Ostolaza had hoped Tabarez would be patient with him and give him until Wednesday to recover. "But I decided not to wait for Ostolaza for this match and let him rest. We cannot risk losing him for the rest of the World Cup," Tabarez said.

The coach said the main strength of his team was the individual skills of Francescoli and Ruben Sosa, who have the rare ability to increase the tempo with quick accelerations and near first touch passes.

He said his side was mentally ready for the match against Spain. "My players are not going to be surprised. They are ready for everything. They know they cannot lose their temper but must concentrate on playing and winning," he said.

Spain's coach Luis Suarez is one of many who rate the Uruguayan team highly. "Uruguay could be the real surprise team in this World Cup," he said, adding he felt they were even capable of winning the title.

But experienced Spanish defender Manuel Sanchez is placing his confidence in his own team's skills. "Spain can get any result they want. This is a World Cup without any real favourites," he said.

Asked to name the top strikers in the first round group, Sanchez replied: "Butragueno, Martin Vazquez, Manolo" — his team mates.

Emilio Butragueno, dubbed "the vulture," made his name by scoring four goals against Denmark in the 1986 World Cup but has failed to fulfil his remarkable potential since then.

'Poor play' upsets Menem

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Argentina's President Carlos Menem Monday criticised the Argentine soccer team which was beaten 1-0 by Cameroon in the World Cup finals opening match but added that the title-holders could improve with a few changes.

"Cameroon is the dark horse in the World Cup. They performed better than we did, they ran fast and played hard... Argentina played poorly, very poorly, Menem, who was at Friday's match in Milan, told reporters at government house.

Nevertheless Menem, 59, who shortly after taking office last year donned shorts and boots to play with the Argentine team in a charity match, said he was still optimistic about his country's chances.

"With a few changes in the team, things may change," said Menem, who in April tried unsuccessfully to persuade head coach Carlos Bilardo to name more forwards to break Argentina's goal drought.

On returning to Argentina from Italy Sunday, Menem scoffed at reporters' suggestions he might have brought bad luck to the team by attending the opening match.

Argentine media openly joke about their leader's supposed jinx, often listing the misfortunes that befall people linked to him.

"I was in the stadium but I didn't play the match. That would be like blaming the Soviet Union's loss to Romania on (Soviet leader Mikhail) Gorbachev," Menem said. Romania beat the Soviet 2-0 Saturday in Bari.

Argentina play the Soviet Union Wednesday and Romania next Monday, both in Naples, home of Argentine captain Diego Maradona's Napoli club.

Meanwhile, a government house official said that Menem nipped out of meetings Monday to catch glimpses of World Cup soccer matches on a giant television screen installed a few metres from his office.

"The president did not sit through all the matches, he just came in now and then to watch. But some of his ministers and secretaries stepped out of a cabinet meeting to watch the England-Ireland tie," said the official, who asked not to be named.

Italians lash England for mediocre display

ROME (Agencies) — Italian commentators Tuesday lashed England's mediocre 1-1 draw with Ireland in their opening World Cup match, calling it boring and painful.

Newspapers and television and radio commentators were unanimous in describing England's showing as a disappointment.

The sports newspaper Corriere Dello Sport carried a big front page headline reading: "Painful English," while the top circulation Corriere Della Sera's sports page headline said: "A Derby In English Means Boredom."

Television commentators during the game repeatedly criticised the lack of skills of the English and Irish players.

One of them, referring to the rain that fell during the match in the Sardinian capital of Cagliari, said: "This is a typical English-style of play in typically English weather."

The newspaper La Repubblica, under a headline "Is This All There Is To England?" said: "This was a painful match. Not quite an insult to the game of soccer but almost."

Gazzetta Dello Sport, Italy's top sports newspaper, ran a headline: "No Play, We're British." "A lot of rhythm but no imagination... this match is a candidate for being the dullest so far in the World Cup," it said.

Republic of Ireland manager Jack Charlton, whose team extended its unbeaten run to 14 games with a 1-1 World Cup

Group F draw with England Monday night, felt his team deserved to share the points.

"We got no more than we deserved," Charlton said. "Our goal was a great one and I thought England's was too — a superb piece of opportunism after hesitancy by us."

Since Charlton, an Englishman who won a World Cup winners medal in 1966, took over as Ireland's soccer supremo in 1987 his team has played 39 matches, winning 21, drawing 13, losing five, scoring 51 goals and conceding only 17.

"This draw sets us up for the rest of the tournament," said Charlton. "It is important you don't lose your first game. Now we've got to go out and do it against Egypt next Sunday. By then England will have played Holland. We should know what points we must achieve to qualify."

England and Ireland share Group F with the Netherlands and Egypt.

Charlton said he was confident the Irish would qualify for the second round.

"We have great character in this team, good players. They showed a lot of fight, came back into the game after conceding the goal and got the draw we thoroughly deserved," he said.

Charlton, 52, who started his working life as a coal miner, felt Ireland pressured England throughout.

Belgium crushes S. Korea

VERONA, Italy (AP) — Belgium wore down South Korea and then pulled away to a 2-0 victory on second-half goals by Marc Degryse and Michel De Wolf Tuesday in the opening World Cup match for both teams.

The skillful Belgians dominated the first half, but the South Korean defence shut the team down.

Degryse broke the deadlock in the 53rd minute when he floated a 27-metre shot over the head of goalie Choi In-Yong after the South Korean ventured too far out of the penalty area.

In the 64th minute, De Wolf picked off a pass inside the South

Korean area, then maneuvered into position and launched a rocket from the left side that blew by Choi.

More than 32,000 fans attended the match, which got Belgium off to a powerful start against Group E rivals Uruguay and Spain, both considered as strong as the top-seeded Belgians.

"Belgium has its first two points in its pocket, that is the most important," said coach Guy Thys. "But I would have loved to see a couple of more goals. Luckily, we had this early goal and we kept everything cool after that," Thys said.

Belgium had far more opportunities against a tiring South Korean team in the second half, including a sliding save by Choi on a point-blank shot by midfielder Enzo Scifo, the son of Italian immigrants and the local favourite.

South Korea had its best chance in the 67th minute, when heralded midfielder Kim Joo-Sung, nicknamed "Little Samson" for his long hair, inadvertently headed away a shot that seemed headed into the open Belgian net. Midfielder Bruno Versavel came close to scoring twice in the first six minutes.

Caniggia expected to spearhead Argentina attack against USSR

TRIGORIA, Italy (Agencies) — Holders Argentina, still shell-shocked after the 1-0 defeat by Cameroon in the opening match of the World Cup, may make wholesale changes for the clash with the Soviet Union Wednesday.

Claudio Caniggia, the striker favoured by captain Diego Maradona who most troubled Cameroon's defence when he came on as a second half substitute, is expected to start the vital Group B match in Naples.

Coach Carlos Bilardo hinted he may turn to experienced players for the match the world champions must not lose if they are to retain a realistic chance of staying in the competition.

The Soviet Union lost 2-0 to Romania Saturday.

Bilardo, explaining that he would make no tactical changes,

said: "We'll continue with what we've been doing for 23 days. It's

what we did from 1984 to 1986 with (Ricardo) Giusti and 'Vasco' (Julio Olarticochea). Now we do it with (Nestor) Lorenzo and (Roberto) Sensi."

He was referring to the two players on the flanks in his five-man midfield who double as backs.

The newer members of the Argentine side were let down by nerves against Cameroon and Bilardo could be planning to field a majority of 1986 veterans against the Russians.

Giusti, 33, and Olarticochea, 31, were in the side who beat West Germany in the World Cup final in Mexico four years ago.

The other 1986 veterans in the squad, Maradona, goalkeeper Nery Pumpido, stopper Oscar Ruggeri and midfielder Sergio Batista and Jorge Burruchaga,

played against Cameroon. Bilardo said rugged Real Madrid defender Ruggeri, who was substituted because of back pains, would probably miss Wednesday's match.

He is likely to be replaced by three-times capped Jose Serrizuela, who plays for Argentine champions River Plate.

Meanwhile, a wall of sound from adoring Napoli fans will galvanise a dispirited Diego Maradona when he leads Argentina against the Soviet Union in a knife-edge World Cup match Wednesday.

The world champions hope the 70,000 crowd at the San Paolo stadium, home of Maradona's Napoli, will inspire them to a redemptive victory after their shock 1-0 loss to Cameroon in the tournament's opening match.

Photos below show Amman Little League baseball activities which ended last week in Amman.



GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSCH © 1989 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

THE BEST CHANCE

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH: ♠ A 4 2, ♥ A Q J, ♦ A 7 4, ♣ J 7 5

WEST: ♠ 7 3, ♥ 4 2, ♦ K Q 8 6 2, ♣ K 4 3 2

EAST: ♠ Q 10 8 6, ♥ 8 7 3, ♦ 10 9, ♣ A Q 10 6

SOUTH: ♠ K J 5, ♥ K 10 9 6 5, ♦ 5 3, ♣

The bidding: South West North East Pass Pass 1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Four of ♠. We are indebted to a reader, D. Bruce Craft of San Jose, Calif., for this hand from a recent Swiss Team event. R illustrates an oft-stated principle: Don't put all your eggs in one basket. See if some other line of the cards won't deliver your contract.

Four hearts is a perfectly normal contract, reached here after a Stayman sequence. Three no trump, difficult to reach, would have made as the cards lie.

West got the defense off to an

excellent start with a trump lead. With one club and two diamond losers, four hearts needed a good dollop of luck—declarer was going to have to bring in the spade suit without losing a trick.

The most likely combinations involve a winning finesse and a 3-3 break, or else a successful finesse and a 4-2 spade split, which permits the fourth spade to be ruffed as long as the hand short in spades holds no more than two trumps.

Once you have worked that out your line of play becomes obvious. Since you still have some chance if the spade finesse loses (you might be able to discard a diamond from dummy on the fourth spade and ruff a diamond on some distributions), you should lead a spade to the jack at trick two. If that wins draw a second round of trumps, cash the ace of spades and continue with a spade to the king.

If spades are 3-3, draw the last trump, and claim your contract. If they are 4-2 and the distribution is as in the diagram, West cannot ruff the king of spades, so ruff your last spade for the 10th trick.

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Bush rebuffs latest Gorbachev proposal on united Germany

WASHINGTON (R) — President George Bush Tuesday shrugged aside Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's suggestion that a united Germany become an "associate member" of both the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and Warsaw Pact alliances.

"Our position is well known to him, which is that a unified Germany should be in NATO with no conditions," Bush told reporters at the start of a meeting with Republican congressional leaders.

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, speaking to reporters in Bonn earlier Tuesday, also turned a cold shoulder to the latest proposal by Gorbachev.

"This is a proposal we do not consider realistic. We reject it," Kohl said.

Bush said Gorbachev's proposal, outlined in a speech to the Soviet Parliament, had been presented during the Soviet leader's

five-day visit to Washington from May 31-June 3.

"That matter was discussed here," Bush said.

Gorbachev suggested Tuesday that a change in NATO doctrine and strategy could ease the way for a united Germany to join the Western alliance.

"We would welcome changes to the (NATO) alliance's military doctrine, which was engendered by the cold war," he declared.

"Within such a framework, a new solution could be found for ensuring security for a united Germany."

Gorbachev, reformulating an idea aired earlier this year by his

Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, said a fresh approach by NATO could make it possible for the new German state to play "an associative part" in both alliances.

This would involve both present German states in maintaining all their obligations under their present alliances, with Bonn's army subject to NATO and the East German army subject to the new German government, he said.

He told the deputies this could be covered by "a formula of associated membership of the new German state in the two blocs, while they continue to exist. This double membership could be the outline of new European structures."

During a transition period while NATO and the Warsaw Pact transformed themselves, Gorbachev added, Soviet troops would remain on the territory of what is now East Germany.

The "association" proposal, diplomats said, was clearly a moderated version of the Kremlin's original suggestion that the new state belong to both alliances — an idea flatly rejected by the West and by the new East German government.

Gorbachev's remarks followed talks focused on the unity issue in the western Soviet city of Brest Monday between Shevardnadze and West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

In Brussels, NATO said Tuesday the Soviet suggestion did not seem "promising to pursue."

But its response was noticeably more cautious and less headline than previous reactions to Soviet proposals for resolving the problem of Germany's military status.

"The idea of associated membership of a united Germany in both alliances, or of a dual membership, does not seem promising to pursue," a NATO spokesman said.

Russian parliament declares sovereignty

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union's giant Russian Federation Tuesday formally declared its sovereignty, laying down a fresh challenge to Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

TASS news agency said the parliament of the federation, the country's biggest republic, overwhelmingly passed the declaration by 907 votes, with 13 votes against and nine abstentions.

"The document proclaims the Russian Federation, the largest Soviet republic, a sovereign state, declaring the supremacy of its laws on all its territory," TASS said.

The Russian Congress of People's Deputies had been widely expected to approve the

sovereignty move following its declaration last Friday that its laws took precedence over the Soviet constitution.

But the overwhelming support for the sovereignty declaration appeared to be a triumph for Russian President Boris Yeltsin, a strident critic of Gorbachev's plans to reform the economy.

Gorbachev, who faces a drive for independence in the Baltic states and growing opposition from fringe republics over his economic policies, has played down sovereignty moves by the Russian Federation and has hinted he wants to bury differences with Yeltsin.

Deputies stressed that the pro-

clamation did not amount to a declaration of independence, which could never have gathered support from the generally conservative congress.

Earlier in the day, deputies voted 704-206 not to drop the "Soviet Socialist" from the republic's formal name: The Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic.

A radical deputy, Mikhail Maley, said his wing "had a great desire to pass a real declaration immediately but the reality is that the congress wouldn't have accepted it."

The vote for the declaration was met with applause and a standing ovation. Yeltsin stood and applauded the deputies.

Cheney: Soviet reforms have long way to go

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Soviet arsenal of long-range nuclear weapons remains a threat despite improved relations between the United States and the Soviet Union, Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney said Monday.

"Perestroika has a long, long way to go," Cheney told the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, the chief pro-Israeli lobbying organization in the United States.

Cheney described the recent summit meeting between President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev as "useful and productive."

"The relationship between the two superpowers clearly has been moving toward a new footing," he said.

However, he said, "the threat of a Soviet land invasion in Europe may have declined, but the Soviet strategic arsenal is still a threat."

Cheney also predicted that 15 countries are expected to be producing ballistic missiles by the year 2000.

He said the list included Iran, Iraq, Libya, Syria and North Korea. He said at least six of the 15 will have intermediate range missiles by the turn of the century.

The Defence Secretary said 23 countries have confirmed or suspected chemical warfare programmes and 10 have or may have biological warfare programmes.

"Iraq has been the source of some particularly disturbing news in recent months," he said, noting its alleged attempts to acquire electronic trigger mechanisms suitable for nuclear weapons, a claim to possess sophisticated chemical weapons and a recent televised test for a first stage booster rocket.

"Baghdad television has claimed that Iraq has developed two missiles with ranges of 2,000 kilometres," he said. "Although we do not believe that claim, it is a fact that Baghdad is now producing missiles that can reach Israel."

Without waiting for official returns, about 60,000 opposition supporters staged a rally Monday night to protest the projected Communist victory, shouting "down with the red mafia" and "we won't work for the red."

Leaders of the 16-party opposition alliance, who had predicted victory, alleged that a series of election irregularities affected the outcome of Sunday's first round of voting for a 400-seat parliament. They ruled out joining the Socialists in a coalition government.

Dimitar Popov, secretary of

Thai army vows support for premier after dispute

BANGKOK (R) — Thailand's senior military commanders pledged their support for Prime Minister Chatichai Choonavan's government after a day of army unrest over the resignation of the defence minister.

Chatichai left late Monday for a visit to the United States leaving the crisis unresolved but with assurances from supreme commander General Sunthorn Kongsongpong there would be no coup in his absence.

Army Commander General Suchinda Krapayoon told reporters at the airport: "Soldiers are under the government and we cannot pressure the government."

Defence Minister Chavalit Yongchaiyudh, one of Thailand's youngest men and the army commander-in-chief until he joined the government at the end of March, quit Monday after bitter public exchanges with politicians.

Thousands of soldiers rallied in his support at least four bases and

officers appeared on national television venting their anger with Chavalit's critics, raising fears of military intervention in a country which has seen 15 coups or coup attempts in the last 58 years.

Thai newspapers Tuesday criticised their actions as outdated and undemocratic.

"Army officers like to claim they support democracy," said the Nation in a front-page comment headlined "dignity versus democracy."

"What they did yesterday showed that they not only rejected civilian control but also demanded a final say in the life and death of the government."

The Bangkok Post said in an editorial: "Uddid yesterday Thailand could confidently claim to be the model country of South East Asia... transformed from a sleepy agrarian-based backward into a force to be reckoned with."

"But all of a sudden yesterday it looked as though all these accomplishments could go up in smoke."

Peru's new leader rules out talks with rebels

LIMA (R) — Peru's president-elect, Alberto Fujimori, has vowed not to negotiate with armed guerrillas and expressed confidence that he would put his country's crippled economy back on its feet.

A day after his stunning victory in Sunday's presidential elections, Fujimori, the son of Japanese immigrants, said he would tackle inflation without cutting workers' spending power and fight terrorism and the drug war without the help of foreign troops.

"I don't have a magic wand. But I do have the means, the economic principles," Fujimori, 51, told reporters in a suite of a five-star Lima hotel as his four children played in the corridor and squealed with laughter.

Quiet and restrained, Fujimori said he had been told of his victory by one of his four children who had seen the news on television.

"I think there are solutions to all the problems," he said. "I am completely optimistic that the grave problems confronting Peru can be overcome. I am not afraid of any of the problems."

Fujimori's task is staggering. Peru is in the grip of a 10-year campaign by Maoist Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) guerrillas, the economy is in chaos and the drug industry grows 60 per cent of the world's coca — the raw material for cocaine.

Fujimori vowed not to negotiate with armed guerrillas.

"There will be no dialogue with those who are carrying arms," he said. He added that he would extend the role of the army,

which would now also be expected to help rebuild the zones in the interior hit hardest by the guerrilla insurgency.

A former agronomist and university rector who has a political unknown until a couple of months ago, Fujimori overwhelmed his opponent, novelist Mario Vargas Llosa, in Sunday's election. Official results will not be ready for days.

But unofficial exit polls gave Fujimori a 20 percentage point advantage and Vargas Llosa, fronting a coalition of centrist and rightist parties, accepted defeat Sunday night.

Some Vargas Llosa diehards, however, have been reluctant to grant Fujimori his victory.

About 300 of the novelist's supporters, many of them chanting "coup, coup, coup" gathered outside Vargas Llosa's home Monday night to demand the military step in to block Fujimori from power.

"We're going to get rid of Fujimori and send him back to Japan," said one of the demonstrators.

"All the dirty, ignorant and illiterate people of this country voted for the oriental but we, the people with culture, are not going to let him come to power," said another.

Fujimori said his victory was due to his ability to communicate with the poor and their fear of economic shock measures proposed by Vargas Llosa's centre-right coalition.

Outgoing centre-left President Alan Garcia leaves behind annual inflation of 2,000 per cent.

Romanian police disperse protesters

BUCHAREST (AP) — Club-wielding police dispersed about 500 demonstrators outside government headquarters Monday, where talks were under way between officials and hunger strikers seeking independent TV stations.

There were no official reports or injuries or arrests as hundreds of steel-helmeted paramilitary police, armed with clubs and AK-47 rifles, broke up the anti-Communist protesters, who were rallying in support of the hunger strikers.

The hunger strikers have been trying for weeks to open a dialogue with the government to press for a free media and a 10-year ban on former Communists holding public office.

The protesters, who have been blocked university square in downtown Bucharest since April 22, marched from there to the government headquarters in Victory Square.

Outside the headquarters, they shouted slogans such as "down with Communism" and "the only solution is another revolution" — an allusion to the December revolution that toppled Communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

After the police intervention, the number of protesters swelled to about 1,000, then dwindled again shortly afterward.

"They were clubbing the people who did not want to go from the square... so hard that some of them fell to the ground," said Marian Tanasescu, 34, an engineer.

"Why do you want to get rid of us? We only want to put Communism in the same grave with Ceausescu," Florida Tia, a housewife, told the major commanding the police.

An announcement on state-run television blamed the demonstrators for "physical aggression."

A government statement issued after talks between the hunger strikers and government officials said the demonstrators in the square tried "to storm the government building." It also said that police were called "to defend Romania's government."

Three representatives of the 19 hunger strikers in university square attended the talks and signed an agreement to stop fasting if the government pledges in writing to allow the establishment of private TV stations.

Lucian Constantinescu, director general of the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications, told the strikers that his ministry had already received 86 requests to open private, independent TV stations in Romania, including 22 in Bucharest.



A disarmed contra rebel leaves El Ahmendo security zone accompanied by his wife and child

U.N. officials expect contra surrender to end this week

MANAGUA (AP) — More than 11,000 contra rebels have laid down their weapons under a peace accord signed with the government and another 4,000 were expected to disarm this week, officials said Monday.

Although the rebels did not meet the Sunday deadline for disbanding their entire force, the remaining resistance members were expected to report to U.N. officials by the end of the week.

"We trust it will end this week," Fernando Castanon of the U.N. peacekeeping force in Nicaragua said of the demobilisation.

The disbanding of the U.S.-backed army that fought the former Sandinista government effectively ends Nicaragua's nine-year-old civil war, which cost 30,000 lives and helped push the economy close to ruin.

President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro was expected this week to announce the next step in the peace process — a plan to trim the Sandinista People's Army, which are the government forces and most powerful weapon of the former government.

Chamorro, who took office on April 25, wants to carry with her to a Central American summit later this week proof that her 6-week-old conservative government is fulfilling regional peace accords signed by her predecessor, Daniel Ortega.

Castanon said that since the May 7 start of the disbanding through Sunday night, 11,228 re-

bels had handed in their weapons and registered with U.N. peacekeepers.

About 4,000 rebels remained to be demobilised.

The rebels include about 12,000 fighters and others who have served as messengers, cooks and in other roles and now want the benefits and protection offered by the disbanding programme.

Those registering have included children as young as 11.

The contra forces are turning in their weapons at security zones set up from the northern Honduran border to the southern Costa Rican frontier. Yatama rebels have been demobilising in their home region, the remote Atlantic area.

After several suspensions, the disbanding picked up following May 30, when rebels and the government signed a protocol establishing regional development centres where former rebels and their families could live.

However, many contras taking part in a mass demobilisation last weekend said they were going to their hometowns rather than the centres.

Chamorro is considering a 40 per cent reduction in Nicaragua's army, which under the former Sandinista government grew to be the largest in Central America, military and diplomatic sources said Monday.

The military sources, who asked not to be identified, said a plan expected to be announced

this week by Chamorro will bring a gradual 40 per cent cut in the 40,000-man permanent army.

At the height of the war against the U.S.-backed contra rebels, the popular Sandinista army also included an additional 30,000 conscripts. But the number of draftees serving in the army has fallen since Chamorro, upon taking office in April, suspended the obligatory two-year military service.

Managua-based diplomats also said that Chamorro was thought to be considering a cut in the army of upwards of 40 per cent. The plan is also said to include a provision for the resignation of top army officer General Humberto Ortega, the older brother of former president and Sandinista leader Daniel Ortega.

Over the past weekend, several army officers who said they did not want to serve under a non-Sandinista government or who wanted to study were granted discharges from the army, the military sources said. They said the discharges were the first part of the yet-to-be announced military reduction.

Senior Chamorro advisor Alfredo Cesar said over the weekend that the president would likely announce her army reduction plan Wednesday.

Chamorro, who on Saturday announced that the contra war had ended, was committed to the army reduction plan under demobilisation accords signed with rebel leaders.

Losing Bulgarian alliance rules out coalition with Socialists

SOFIA (AP) — Bulgaria's Socialist Party, heir to the Communists who have controlled the Balkan nation since 1944, Tuesday appeared on the verge of becoming the only Communists in the Soviet Bloc to win a free election.

Without waiting for official returns, about 60,000 opposition supporters staged a rally Monday night to protest the projected Communist victory, shouting "down with the red mafia" and "we won't work for the red."

Leaders of the 16-party opposition alliance, who had predicted victory, alleged that a series of election irregularities affected the outcome of Sunday's first round of voting for a 400-seat parliament. They ruled out joining the Socialists in a coalition government.

Dimitar Popov, secretary of

the Central Electoral Commission, said official results had been delayed until Tuesday because of the need to check returns from 12,600 polling stations.

If their victory is confirmed, the Socialists would be the only ruling party in Eastern Europe to be returned to power in a multi-party election. The Communists changed their name to Socialists in April.

"West German and Bulgarian projections gave the Socialists about 48 per cent of the vote. The opposition alliance, the Union of Democratic Forces (UDF), was second with about 36 per cent."

In third place was the Agrarian Party, a former docile Communist ally that declared its independence this year, with about 8 per cent of the vote. It was followed by the mainly ethnic Turkish Movement for Rights and Free-

doms, with about 5.7 per cent. The rest of the 38 parties that fielded candidates shared about 2.5 per cent of the vote.

Premier Andrei Lukanov, a leading Socialist Party member, went on television Monday night and urged all parties "to look beyond party passions" and take part in a "broad national coalition."

"There are no losers in the present elections because in the final reckoning the victory of democracy is a victory for all," he was quoted as saying by the Bulgarian News Agency (BTA).

But UDF Chairman Zhelev said the opposition alliance would not form a coalition in parliament with the former Communists.

"In the National Assembly we will be a powerful opposition faction," he said.

Delta rocket lifts off with Indian satellite

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) — A Delta rocket blasted off Tuesday with an Indian communications satellite that was damaged first in a launch pad accident and then by the northern California earthquake.

The unmanned rocket thundered skyward, the moon in the background, on time at 1:52 a.m. (0552 GMT). The satellite was to separate from the rocket about an hour later and settle in a temporary orbit 210 kilometres high.

Abid Hussain, India's ambassador to the United States, said Monday the satellite will benefit even the poorest and most rural of India's 800 million people.

"We in India believe that science and technology could be put into the service of the people, especially those people who have been so far behind of some of the advantages of progress," said Hussain.

Through this particular satellite, we would like to spread education and knowledge, science and new culture to hundreds and thousands of those who have been out of the mainstream of life," he said.

The \$80-million Insat satellite will replace one that was de-

ployed in 1983 by the crew of the shuttle Challenger. It will be boosted into a stationary orbit 35,890 kilometres high about 10 days after liftoff, said Sastri Vasantha, project director of India's Department of Space.

Once it becomes operational in mid-July, the satellite will provide a telecommunications link in India. It also will send video and voice signals to television, radio and disaster warning receivers, and send weather observations to a forecasting centre in New Delhi for distribution across India.

Hubble still faces problems

Meanwhile problems continue to nag the Hubble space telescope nearly seven weeks after its launching.

The telescope still vibrates each time it passes from day to night and night to day, and it loses its electronic memory whenever it moves over a region off Brazil known as the South Atlantic anomaly.

The problems can be overcome, Jean Olivier, one of NASA's top telescope engineers, said Monday.

The vibration of the giant solar arrays, which convert sunlight

into electricity, has been plaguing engineers as they go through a painstaking eight-month check and calibration period.

The telescope was put into orbit by astronauts on the space shuttle Discovery on April 25.

"We probably would have been along further than we are today," Olivier said.

The telescope circles the Earth at an altitude of 452 kilometres nearly 15 times in a 24 hour day, encountering a sunrise and sunset each time. The vibration in the solar panel sets up movement in the telescope up to six minutes each time the instrument passes from day to night and for 20 minutes going from night to day.

Analyses both in Europe and the United States have determined that heat causes a bowing in poles — called bistens — that pulled the ribbon-like solar panels from cassettes where they were rolled up much like a pull-down window shade.

The solution, Olivier said, is to programme computers to put in a counter-force to dampen the vibration. That will be done in the coming weeks, he said.

The other problem involves the

electronics of the telescope's fine guidance sensors. Whenever the spacecraft flies over the South Atlantic anomaly, radiation affects the electronic "bits" that make up computer memory instructions and commands.

The anomaly is a region off the coast of Brazil where radiation that surrounds the Earth in the so-called Van Allen Belt dips down to near the telescope's orbit. The closer the telescope is to that area, said Olivier, the more its electronics are affected.

"If it goes through the centre, it's in there 10 minutes," he said. "It's at the very centre that the radiation is worst."

The solution for that problem, which will be with the telescope during its entire 15-year lifetime, is a software programme that will automatically "refresh" the electronics' memory 10 times a second.

Ed Weiler, project scientist for the telescope, said that the problems have put the start-up work on the project at least three weeks behind schedule. But, he said, the checkout of the science instruments is ahead of schedule and all are working fine.



Checkpoint Charlie being hauled away

WEST BERLIN (AP) — Checkpoint Charlie, the small building that long was a gateway between East and West, will be loaded onto a truck this week and hauled away, the U.S. military in Berlin said Monday. Surrounded by lore, photographed by millions and now pushed into obsolescence, the Berlin Wall checkpoint will cease to exist Thursday morning. Perhaps more than any other landmark, Checkpoint Charlie symbolised the cold war. But since last November, when the dismantling of the Berlin Wall began, the French, British and U.S. soldiers who operate Checkpoint Charlie have been more like tour guides than soldiers. On the other side of the wall, East Germans at the same crossing will stop checking passports and identity cards on July 1. The U.S. military last week announced the dismantling of Checkpoint Charlie, but only Monday was the exact date released. "They're going to lift it up and put it on a truck," said U.S. military spokesman Sgt. 1st Class Edwin McCarthy. He said he did not know where it would be taken. McCarthy said he could not confirm widespread speculation that the small, one-story structure will be taken to a museum, possibly in the United States. "The final disposition of the building has not been decided at this time," the U.S. army sergeant told the Associated Press.

Brando's son 'may have killed over lies'

LOS ANGELES (R) — The son of actor Marlon Brando may have shot and killed his pregnant half-sister's boyfriend because of lies she told about being "slapped around," the father of the dead man said Monday. Christian Brando has been charged with murdering 26-year-old Dag Drollet, the Tahitian boyfriend of Cheyenne Brando, in his father's Hollywood mansion after the two had an argument over the girl. Detectives said the younger Brando told them the shooting occurred during a fierce quarrel after he had confronted Drollet about slapping his half-sister. But the dead man's father, Jacques Drollet, speaking to reporters outside a Los Angeles courtroom, said Marlon Brando had told him Cheyenne was lying when she said Dag Drollet had hit her. "Marlon Brando talked to me on the telephone the day after the shooting. He said his daughter Cheyenne had been lying about Dag slapping her around. He said it was totally untrue. He said Cheyenne had been telling lies to Christian about Dag slapping her while she was pregnant. He said it was all lies," Drollet said. He spoke after attending a brief court hearing for Brando in which the judge set June 25 as the day for deciding when a preliminary hearing on the charge would be held. The younger Brando, handcuffed and wearing white prison overalls, did not speak. His lawyer, Robert Shapiro, told reporters outside the court the shooting was "a horrible human event... for both families."

Pilot saved as crew hold his legs

LONDON (AP) — A British Airways pilot sucked out on the nose cone of his jetliner when the windshield blew out was held by his legs for a quarter of an hour while the copilot made an emergency landing. "The window popped and Tim went out like a rag doll," said Stewardess Susan Prince after the ordeal of 41-year-old Capt. Tim Lancaster in the sky over England Sunday. When the windshield panel blew out at 24,000 feet (7,300 metres), the pilot was sucked out by an immediate drop in air pressure. Fursler Nigel Ogden who was nearby in the forward galley, serving tea, dashed into the cockpit and grabbed the pilot's legs as he was disappearing. Steward Simon Rogers strapped himself into the pilot's seat harness and, helped by Miss Prince, held on to the pilot as Ogden let go because of blood pouring from his right arm gashed by broken glass. Rogers held the skipper for 15 minutes while other crew members calmed passengers and gave Ogden first aid for his arm. The pilot was so far out of the port (left) side of the windshield that when the BAC-111 eventually landed firefighters were able to lift him through it. They took out an adjoining side window for easier access.